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THE TIMES

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MONDAY APRIL 5 1993

45p



Looking to the future: Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin surrounded by children while visiting Vancouver's anthropology museum during a break in the summit talks

Clinton offers \$1.6bn instant aid for Russia

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
AND ANNE MCILROY
IN VANCOUVER

PRESIDENT Clinton last night unveiled a \$1.6 billion American aid package for Russia at the end of a weekend summit with President Yeltsin during which he lent the Russian leader all the political, economic and moral support at his command.

The White House said the package — much greater than expected — was the most it could do to bolster Russia's progress towards democracy and reform with available funds, and the aid could start to flow within days. Further help, for which congressional approval will be required, is expected to follow soon.

The deal announced in Vancouver last night includes \$700 million (about £460 million) in cheap grain sales and \$224 million in food and medicine grants. America will also contribute \$215 million for dismantling former Soviet nuclear weapons and \$6 million to build houses for Russian soldiers returning from the Baltic.

As well as further money to

Sensitive to Russian pride and charges of charity, President Clinton has come up with a bigger and more precise aid package than expected

help with the privatisation of state industries and to boost trade and technical assistance, America will back Russian membership of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and add Russia to the list of countries entitled to favourable import terms. Joint commissions will also be set up on technical co-operation and trade.

American officials said they hoped the package would "prime the pump" for multi-lateral aid from the group of seven industrialised nations (G7), and Mr Clinton also pledged to push other wealthy nations to offer help independently. He appeared to have secured a promise of Japanese support in a telephone call to Kichi Miyazawa, the Prime Minister, despite Japan's long-standing dispute with Russia over the Kurile islands. "I believe that they will fulfil their leadership role," Mr

Clinton said. "I believe what you will see building up over the next few weeks is a very significant effort by the G7 and perhaps other countries as well to support a long-term process of development in Russia." Canada pledged \$200 million (about £105 million) in various forms of assistance on Friday, while Britain offered £120 million to back up the American effort. Mr Clinton acknowledged yesterday that all Western aid could be rendered useless by "future political events" in Moscow, but declared: "We just need to weigh in and do what we can to do what's right."

With Mr Yeltsin facing a critical referendum in three weeks' time, the Clinton delegation showed a rare sensitivity in its presentation of the summit and was at pains not to fuel accusations from Mr Yeltsin's opponents that he

was humiliating Russia by accepting Western handouts. "This is not a talk about aid, it is a talking about a long-term partnership," Mr Clinton said. And in press briefings, officials volunteered the information that Mr Yeltsin had raised various Russian "irritations" at US conduct.

With the Pacific and the Rocky mountains providing a spectacular backdrop, numerous photo-opportunities were arranged to show Mr Yeltsin dealing as an equal with an

American counterpart who was himself anxious to establish himself as a commanding world leader on his first foreign trip.

The two had at least seven hours of meetings and officials emphasised the good chemistry between them. Brian Mulroney, the Canadian prime minister, said they were "getting along like a house on fire". George Stephanopoulos, the White House spokesman, said Mr Clinton was "energised" by the meetings and admired Mr Yeltsin because he was "a fighter, not deterred by long odds".

The presidents had discussed the immediate American aid package over a working dinner on Saturday night. Asked if he was satisfied, Mr Yeltsin said: "Too little is not very good of course. But too much could also be bad because the communists would use it to target us." In Moscow, the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, described the offer as humiliating, even though it was not intended to be. "We have to thank them for it, but I for one find it degrading."

Not-so-super powers, page 10

Brixton gunman recaptured

BY EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the IRA's most dangerous terrorists was back in jail in the Irish Republic last night nearly two years after his dramatic escape from Brixton Prison. Nessim Quinlivan, who, with Pearce McAuley, shot his way out of Brixton in July 1991, was arrested by Irish police at a farmhouse near Nenagh, in County Tipperary early yesterday.

The arrest will bring the first test of the recent pledge by the Irish prime minister, Albert Reynolds, that the republic was "no safe haven" for paramilitaries. He was speaking after the Warrington IRA bomb blast in which two children died.

Scotland Yard is already consulting with the Crown Prosecution Service about applying for Quinlivan's extradition to Britain to stand trial on charges of conspiracy to murder Sir Charles Tibbels, the former chairman of Whitbread, in 1990. He will also face a number of charges arising out of the escape from Brixton.

Officers acknowledge, however, that extradition could be delayed for some years since Quinlivan is being ques-

Continued on page 2, col 5

Ministers will change law if teachers refuse to test pupils

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION REPORTER

THE government is ready to change the law to require teachers to implement classroom tests as its education policy faces collapse in the face of rebellion by teachers.

Ministers will hold a series of meetings today to plan their response to a High Court ruling on Friday that the boycott of national curriculum tests for pupils aged seven, 11 and 14 by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NAS/UNT) is legal.

The National Union of Teachers and the Association of Teachers and Lecturers could deal this summer's tests a further blow when they face demands at their annual conferences this week to join the revolt against the tests.

John Patten, the education secretary, is determined to face down the profession, and has been bolstered by findings that teachers expect one in ten 14-year-olds to show the reading and writing ability of a five or seven-year-old in this summer's English tests. Another 32 per cent are forecast to reach the standard of a nine or 11-year-old.

Today's figures, which follow a series of reports identifying serious shortcomings in standards in British schools, are based on orders from government advisers for English test papers in four tiers of difficulty.

Teachers assessed the ability of pupils before deciding which papers they should face in June. Four out of ten were judged not capable of studying a Shakespeare play — thwarting an initiative by Mr Patten to make this compulsory for the overwhelming majority. About half of 14-year-olds will sit tests appropriate for their age, and 8 per cent will be entered for papers designed for high-ability pupils.

Mr Patten is running out of

options to safeguard this year's tests in maths, science and English for 600,000 seven-year-olds and in the same subjects plus technology for a similar number of 14-year-olds. Pilot tests for 11-year-olds are being taken by about 200 schools.

The Schools Bill is probably too far advanced through Parliament for ministers to rush through an amendment forcing teachers to carry out the tests this year. The government is pinning its hopes on the High Court reversing its judgment at an appeal expected later this month. If that fails, the education department will consider fresh legislation to close the loophole.

Teachers complain that the tests are badly designed and the extra work involved in administering, marking and recording them wastes teaching time. Opposition has surprised even union leaders by its vehemence.

The Secondary Heads Association last night appealed to Mr Patten to appoint an independent negotiator in an attempt to avert widespread industrial action in schools next term.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NAS/UNT, asked for a meeting with Mr Patten to start work on streamlining the curriculum and devising alternative testing and assessment.

Further evidence emerged of growing opposition to the tests from head teachers acting independently of the unions. The National Co-ordinating Committee on Learning and Assessment, an informal group established six weeks ago, said that up to 1,000 head teachers now plan to replace the government's English tests with their own version.

Test boycott, page 7

Another Grand National not a runner, say Aintree officials

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE organisers of the Martell Grand National yesterday ruled out rerunning the world's most famous steeplechase this year.

Less than 24 hours after two false starts reduced the 4½ mile marathon to a farce and ended in the race being declared void, Aintree officials reluctantly decided it would not be practical to stage the 150th Grand National this season — or in November, early in the 1993-94 jump racing campaign.

The Jockey Club, whose senior starter Captain Keith Brown is involved, will launch a formal investigation this morning into racing's biggest disaster which cost the Chancellor £6 million in lost betting duty and deprived the sport of an estimated £1 million income.

William Hill, who expected to make £2 million profit from Saturday's race, said yester-



Brown: senior starter with the Jockey Club

day that it was considering legal action against Aintree for loss of earnings and the £150,000 it had spent on marketing the race. The firm also called for the use of starting stalls for jump racing.

Race organisers could face "unlimited" claims for compensation from owners, trainers and jockeys, lawyers said yesterday, although litigants

would have to break new legal ground to win their cases. Bookmakers face a chaotic start to the week as they attempt to return the £75 million waged on the race by an estimated 15 million punters.

In contrast, the North West Animal Rights Coalition, whose members' actions in running on to the track before the first fence contributed to the confusion among jockeys at the start of the race, were delighted. "The people in charge are trying to play down our role in stopping the race but we believe that we were instrumental in its collapse," said a spokesman.

As the full impact of the Aintree catastrophe and national humiliation sank in, Ken Evans, the flag man at the centre of the controversy, Continued on page 3, col 4

Grand National farce, page 3
Leading article
and letters, page 15
Accusations fly, page 23

Fears rise for Britons held in Spanish jail

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN BARCELONA

THREE young Welshmen who have been held without trial for 22 months in one of Spain's toughest prisons in Barcelona could remain there for another year unless the Foreign Office intervenes forcefully on their behalf, Welsh Labour MPs say.

The case of the three men, accused of attempting to murder a Turkish tourist on the Costa Brava in May 1991, has angered human rights organisations and lawyers. They claim the men's imprisonment and the delay in bringing them to trial breach the United Nations Covenant on Human Rights. The men say they are innocent and the victims of mistaken identity.

The MPs claim the government has failed to represent the interests of Jamie Humphreys, 19, from Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, and Alan Sell, 25, and his brother Paul, 23, from Cardiff, because a fellow European Community member is involved.

Last month, after a Spanish court postponed the men's trial for the second time since their arrest, Mark Lennox-Boyd, the Foreign Office minister in charge of consular affairs, called for a report on the case from the British consul in Barcelona. This has now been received although it is understood that no consular official has been to see the men for the past year.

A Foreign Office spokesman acknowledged that it was a "dreadful case" and expressed sympathy for the men's families. "I know they have been working their fingers to the bone to raise money to help fight the case," he said. "But it is always a difficult thing in cases like this for us to work out whether we should just wade in or leave it to defence lawyers. It is hard to gauge whether it would serve the interest of the men to go galloping in."

Spain accused, page 8

RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.



THE
FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

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Riot police on stand-by in Cherbourg

British fishermen to defy French threats

FROM NICHOLAS WATT IN ST PETER PORT

FISHERMEN from the Channel Islands will this morning defy French warnings to stay away from Normandy ports when a flotilla of 12 vessels lands shellfish at Cherbourg.

As 80 riot police arrived in Cherbourg yesterday to ensure order is kept, fishermen on the Channel Islands said they could no longer afford to bow down to French threats.

Mike Taylor, president of Jersey Fishermen's Association, said: "Fishermen are fed up with the threats. We have got to land in Normandy for the sake of our livelihoods."

sell more than 90% of their catches in France and the Easter market this week is particularly lucrative.

Vessels from Guernsey, Jersey and Alderney were due to form the flotilla in the Channel at midnight. Colin Cook, who was planning to sail from Jersey on his vessel *Le Cap*, said he was nervous about landing but "I have no choice. I've got to earn a living. The authorities in Jersey are keen for us to go".

Royal Marines yesterday spent their first full day with navy patrols, strengthening their protection of Channel Islands fishing waters. Riot

police were sent into Cherbourg after French fishermen threatened retaliatory action following the copy action in Guernsey against one of their colleagues. Michel Mesnage, skipper of *La Calypso*, was released on bail on Saturday after a special magistrates hearing in St Peter Port. He was charged with disobeying the orders of a sea fisheries officer and fishing in British waters.

M Mesnage, 40, from Brax, Normandy, allegedly abducted three crew from HMS *Brocksley*, a minesweeper on fisheries patrol. He will appear in court again today and Marie Claire Sanguier, French consul-general to the Channel Islands, said he would protest his innocence.

"He says that when he was seen by the Royal Navy he was just inside the six-mile limit. He radioed to see if he was all right, and was told to move outside the zone. He did so and did not start fishing until he was told that he was nearly half a mile out of British waters."

Jean Le Boucher, president of the Normandy Fishermen's Association, criticised the navy's behaviour in arresting M Mesnage. "It was a bit hard," he said. "We are now just waiting for the trial and want to free our member."

The two other crew of *La Calypso* were left kicking their heels in St Peter Port while their skipper was yesterday resting at Côté's Convent, which is set on a hill overlooking the town. Breakfast was served in a conservatory overlooking the neat gardens. A nun said: "He is resting. He does not want to talk to anyone and will not speak until the case resumes."

In spite of threats from some French trawlers, M Le Boucher said it would be safe for British fishermen to land their catches in Normandy. "We advise them to stay away for the weekend but they are free to come on Monday or Tuesday."

Tony Mesnage, son of the arrested skipper, said in St Peter Port yesterday: "I have no problem with the English fishermen."



Voice of peace: Susan McHugh, the Irish housewife who launched a campaign to end the violence over Northern Ireland after the Warrington bombing, shouting to make herself heard at a rally in Hyde Park, London, yesterday. Demonstrators calling for the withdrawal of British troops attempted to hush down speakers at the peace rally, attended by about 2,500

people. Mrs McHugh, 37, called on the "men of violence" to lay down their weapons. As demonstrators jeered and jostled police, she shouted: "I appeal directly to those responsible to please stop the violence." Liam Cleere, the London bricklayer who organised the rally, told the gunmen "no one had given them the right or mandate to inflict pain on the innocent".

Police chiefs admit evidence was faked

Three chief constables have admitted that some police officers have habitually bent the rules to secure convictions. The three, including Paul Condon, the new commissioner of the Metropolitan police, say on *Panorama* tonight that planting and embroidering evidence, faking notes and threatening to beat up suspects were all common practice in forces where they used to serve.

Mr Condon says that among a minority of officers "quite often the truth was the casualty" in the process of obtaining a conviction. "They were prepared to massage the evidence — not for personal gain or not even, in their own terms, to tell lies about people. But I think, elaborating on things that were said to make sure that the case had the strongest chance of going through to a conviction. That was wrong. I don't justify it but I think I can explain it in its historical context." Charles Pollard, chief constable of Thames Valley, says: "There was a lot of scope to manipulate the system to make sure that you got convictions. If you didn't do it that way, you couldn't actually convict guilty people and that needed to be done."

Rifkind hints at cuts

Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, hinted yesterday that there may be further huge cuts in military spending within the next few years. Although he dismissed speculation of a secret review seeking a £4 billion reduction as "exaggerated and sensationalist", he conceded that he is under pressure to make more savings. Reductions in tanks, frigates, conventional submarines and Tornado fighters are all believed to be options. The first indication of cuts will be contained in July's defence white paper.

Women to retire at 65

Women will have to wait until they are 65 before drawing the state retirement pension, under reforms drawn up by Peter Lilley, the social security secretary. He is to publish a white paper in the summer pledging to equalise the pension age at 65 despite fears within the cabinet of a political backlash. Mr Lilley has rejected equalising the pension age at 63 or 60 on cost grounds. On the BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* yesterday, he said his plan would save £4 billion a year, as opposed to a cost of £4 billion a year for equalisation.

Divorce insurance call

A report by the Institute of Economic Affairs into the costs of the collapse of the traditional family suggests that newlyweds should have to take out insurance against divorce. The report says that society is paying a heavy price for the belief that the family is just another lifestyle choice. Rising levels of crime, suicides among adults and children, drug abuse, poor educational achievement, the physical abuse of children and the coarsening of urban life can all be traced to the prevalence of divorce and illegitimacy.

Orkney money rejected

The mother of seven children whose alleged claims of sex abuse led to the Orkney scandal refused last night to accept damages of up to £24,000 per child from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Orkney Islands Council applied for the money on behalf of the children, some of whom are still in care. The mother, of South Ronaldsay, said: "This looks like a back-door method of validating claims by social workers that there was wide-scale intertribing abuse in my family after my husband was jailed."

Nuclear convoys fear

Local councils are being kept in the dark by the Ministry of Defence over the risks of nuclear weapons convoys on the roads, a television documentary will claim tomorrow. New government guidelines recently sent to councils admit that a serious accident could release deadly radioactive material up to three miles downwind. The Channel 4 documentary, *Trucking with Trident*, says that nuclear weapons are carried across the country almost every week. In recent years, there have been at least 10 incidents.

PCs shot in dairy raid

Two policemen shot when they tried to stop a car used in a robbery underwent surgery yesterday. PC Charlie Dale, 36, and PC Steve Hogarth, 34, received shotgun wounds to the leg and arm when shots were fired into their car from five yards away at Poole, Dorset. Det Chief Supt Des Donohoe, head of Dorset CID, said: "It is only by sheer good fortune that these two officers were not killed." Two masked men with Liverpool accents who had just stolen £10,000 from a Unigate dairy fired from a car driven by an accomplice.

Labour's female plea

The Labour Party must become more "woman friendly", Dr Marjorie Mowlam, right, said yesterday. The shadow minister for citizens' rights told the Labour women's conference at Llandudno, Gwynedd: "This is made all the more important with the ludicrous party membership fee of £18. For women, particularly black and Asian, the party is just not an attractive organisation to join."



Irish police capture Brixton gun escaper

Continued from page 1

tioned about offences in Ireland and is likely to fight extradition as far as the Republic's Supreme Court.

Quinlan's escape while awaiting trial was a serious embarrassment to the Home Office and to the prison authorities and almost resulted in the resignation of Kenneth Baker, the then Home Secretary. An enquiry into the circumstances of the breakout recommended a number of changes in prison security and in the way high security prisoners are managed.

According to Irish police Quinlan, aged 30, who comes from Limerick, was discovered at a farmhouse in the townland of Grallagh about two miles from Nenagh, by officers of the heavily armed Emergency Response Unit looking for IRA weapons. He was armed only with a handgun and did not resist arrest. A second man, described as the householder, was arrested with him. His identity is not known, but he is not Pearce McAuley. Quinlan is now being held

at Nenagh under the Republic's Offences Against the State Act and is expected to be charged at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin either today or tomorrow.

Irish police are delighted with the arrest. It follows renewed criticism in Britain and Northern Ireland that the authorities in the Republic are not doing enough to counter the IRA threat. Quinlan is one of the IRA's most committed and ruthless men, much in the same mould as Patrick Sheehy with whom he used to collaborate, who was also active in Britain and who committed suicide in Nenagh in January 1991.

Quinlan was originally arrested with McAuley in Britain in October 1990 at Stonehenge after a police surveillance operation code-named Octavian. While they were awaiting trial the two escaped from Brixton using a 4in handgun thought to have been concealed in the heel of a training shoe.

It later emerged that the authorities had had a warning of a planned escape.

Labour to target City 'sharks' under new interventionist vision for industry

BY SHERIA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SPECULATORS and predators who undermine Britain's long-term economic future by chasing short-term profits will be penalised under Labour's new interventionist policy for industry, which will be launched tomorrow.

The consultative document *Making Britain's Future* calls for pension funds to be forced to invest in long-term industrial projects, for many takeovers to be blocked and for investors who sell shares for a quick profit to face hefty taxes.

It also suggests German-style worker directors to help ensure that boardroom decisions protect the long-term prosperity of companies rather than the short-term demands of shareholders. Banks could also face restrictions on their powers to close down firms.

The ten-year plan, to be unveiled by John Smith, the

Labour leader, and Robin Cook, the shadow industry secretary, is in sharp contrast to the government's approach and marks a return to Labour's interventionist policies of the pre-Thatcher era. Mr Smith will make it clear that Labour is seeking to provoke comments from industry and workers.

The document will point out that Britain's annual surplus in manufacturing industry has been reversed since 1982. Its central theme is that the trade and industry department should become an engine for growth, although Mr Cook will not argue for a return to massive state subsidies.

A future Labour government, the document suggests, could impose a duty on pension funds to invest in long-term industrial ventures in

Britain, rather than in property or foreign investments.

Like the government, Labour recognises that small and medium-sized companies are the key to growth, but the document will point out that present policies have resulted in a handful of manufacturing conglomerates.

It will suggest changing the onus so that a predator company has to prove its case for taking over another firm before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. A tax regime to penalise speculators while favouring long-term investors is demanded. Although the document does not detail the changes, one option could be higher penalties for those selling shares within a year, as used to be done through varying levels of capital gains tax.

The document says: "We

will consider incentives for longer-term equity ownership, including a review of the tax regime, which makes no distinction in the treatment of profits from the sale of shares, whatever the period they have been held."

Labour also made clear yesterday that it would vote in the Commons with the government in opposing a referendum on the Maastricht treaty on European union. Despite speculation that John Smith may ask his MPs to abstain, George Robertson, shadow minister for Europe, said Labour would vote against the Euro-sceptic amendment. If the mass of the party backed Mr Robertson's argument, the amendment would fail.

Peter Riddell, page 14
Leading article, page 15

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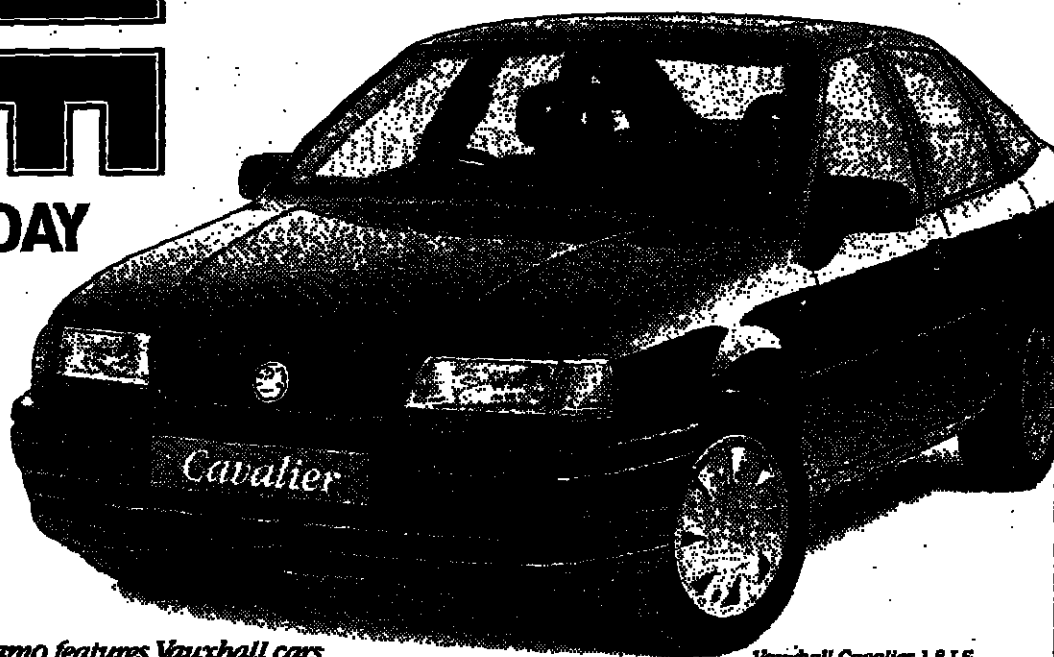
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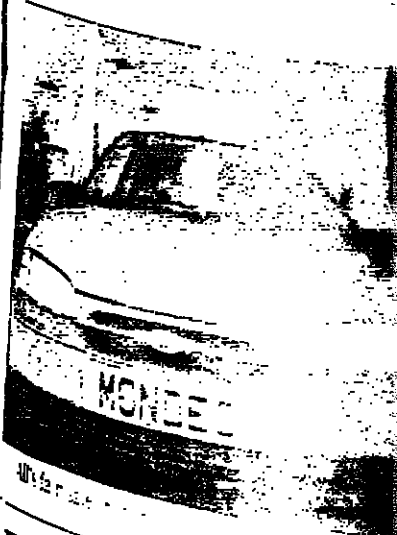
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Drugs rife at

Tourist officials go to court as 70 beaches fail EC pollution tests

■ Officials at some of Britain's favourite resorts are seeking to halt sales of a guide book which pinpoints high-risk beaches

BY BILL FROST

SWIMMERS have been advised to avoid more than 70 British resorts after tests conducted by an environmental group revealed that either water quality or beach hygiene failed to meet basic EC standards.

Swanage, Dorset, and Eastbourne, East Sussex, were among beaches which constituted a risk to swimmers' health, according to the *Heinz Good Beach Guide*, compiled by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) and published today.

Tourism officials at two resorts not included in the guide will today take legal action in a bid to prevent the guide's sale and distribution. They say thousands of jobs in the industry could be put at risk because their beaches have allegedly failed to meet the required standards. Sandown, Isle of Wight, and Bournemouth, Dorset, will dispute claims of unsatisfactory water quality when they seek a High Court injunction.

Steve Cowley, chairman of the island's joint tourism committee, said yesterday: "Sandown is among the cleanest and safest beaches in Europe. We have met the highest EC bathing water standards for the last three years. We can't understand why we've been dropped."

Also dropped from this year's edition are Crackington Haven, Cornwall, and three beaches in Wales, New Quay and Cwmudud in Dyfed and Caswell Bay, West Glamorgan.

According to the guide, "the bulk of the beaches were dropped due to poor water quality. Sewage pollution is still a major problem around the UK coast. In addition the presence of sewage-related debris or excessive litter on the sands is also a problem."

The guide gave 91 British beaches top marks and recommended them as "excellent to visit". In particular, Hunstanton, Norfolk, boasted "some of the best water



Troubled waters: tourist officials at Bournemouth are seeking an injunction to halt distribution of a guide book which omits their resort.

quality in the country" following the installation of a new sewage treatment system.

Cait Loretto of the MCS said: "Ninety-one beaches reaching the higher standards required show us that it is not impossible to have good, clean beaches."

The guide said the following beaches failed to meet even the minimum mandatory standards of the EC Bathing Waters Directive and therefore constituted a risk to the health of bathers:

South West England: Crackington Haven, Cornwall; Swanage, Dorset; South East England: Eastbourne (east of pier), East Sussex; Wales: New Quay, Dyfed; Cwmudud, New Quay, Dyfed;

Caswell Bay, West Glamorgan. Beaches dropped from the guide because of the presence of "sewage solids, excessive litter or other debris" are:

South West England: Fria Sands, Cornwall (sewage related debris); East Coast: Whitby, North Yorkshire (dog faeces, excessive litter); Scotland: Tentsmuir Point, Tayside; Fife (sewage related debris and excessive litter);

High Strathbeg, Grampian (excessive litter); Burrehead Bay, Grampian, (excessive litter); Dornoch, Highland, (excessive litter); Gairloch, Highland (sewage solids); Broadland Bay, Arun (sewage solids); Blackwaterfoot, Strathclyde (sewage solids); Wales: North, Dyfed (sewage-related debris).

The guide dropped the following beaches because the water did not achieve the strict guidelines standards of the EC Bathing Water Directive:

South West England: Trebarwith Strand, Cornwall; Hartley Bay, Cornwall; Treginnon Bay, Cornwall; Padstow, Cornwall; Weymouth Bay, Cornwall; Bow or Vauil Gorran Haven, Cornwall; Cawsand Bay, Cornwall; Teignmouth, Devon; Budleigh Salterton, Devon; Weymouth, Dorset.

Other beaches not monitored by the National Rivers Authority, river purification boards or by the environment department and so not recommended in the guide are:

Ringstead Bay, Dorset; Lulworth Cove, Dorset; Kimmeridge, Dorset; Studland Beach, Dorset; Bournemouth, Dorset; Sandown, Isle of Wight.

South East coast: Beahill, East Sussex; Whitstable, Kent; Dunwich, Suffolk; Wells, Norfolk; East coast: Hummer, Humberside; Bridlington, Humberside; Filey Sands, North Yorkshire; Cayton Bay, N Yorks; Robin Hood's Bay, N Yorks; Runswick Bay, N Yorks; Scotland: Gullane, Lothian; Montrose Links, Tayside; Stonehaven, Grampian; Sandend, Grampian; Culter Sands, Grampian; Troon, Strathclyde.

Wales: Aberdare, Anglesey; Aberdaron, Gwynedd; Harlech, Gwynedd; Tal-y-bont, Gwynedd; Langland Bay, West Glamorgan; Northern Ireland: Portstewart, co. Londonderry; Brown Bay, co. Antrim; Helen's Bay, co. Down.

Other beaches not monitored by the National Rivers Authority, river purification boards or by the environment department and so not recommended in the guide are:

South West England: Priest's Cove, Cornwall; Polperro Cove, Cornwall; Lame Bay, Cornwall; Llanelli Bay, Cornwall; Bayscombe, Devon; East coast: Embleton Bay, Northumberland; Cocklawburn, Northumberland; Wales: Traeth Llŷr, Meirion, Anglesey; Llanddwyn, Newborough, Anglesey; Dinas Dinlle, Gwynedd; Traeth Penllech, Llangrannell, Gwynedd; Northern Ireland: White Park Bay, co. Antrim.

Ford set to cut Mondeo price as new tax fuels car sales war

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

FORD is ready to intensify the car sales war by cutting hundreds of pounds off the prices of its models, including the new Mondeo, launched less than two weeks ago.

Britain's biggest motor manufacturer refused to comment last night, but it is understood executives will order price cuts this week, in a direct response to the Chancellor's Budget decision to switch income tax calculations on company cars away from engine size to list prices. Higher list prices will mean higher tax bills for company car drivers, who account for half of all new car sales.

As much as 4 per cent may be cut from the sticker price of some cars, according to industry analysts, which would mean a reduction of more than £400 on a £10,980 Escort 1.6L.

Most interest will centre on what Ford will do with the Mondeo. Fleet buyers, who could account for 70 per cent of Mondeo sales, have criticised "introductory prices" for the car that pitch it at up to £1,800 more than its closest rival, the Vauxhall Cavalier.

The threat that fleet buyers would stay with the Cavalier, currently the best-selling fleet car, has forced Ford executives into an emergency rethink.

Industry predictions that Mondeo prices would have to fall have also created uncertainty among customers, who are thought to be hanging on for reductions.

Len Clayton, managing di-

rector of Swan National Leasing, said: "Mondeo is an excellent car, but I am amazed at Ford's stance on pricing. It is simply too expensive against the competition."

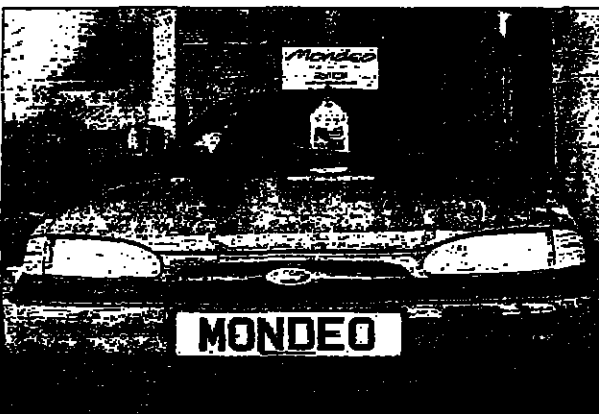
Geoff Beque, director of Leascon, said: "The gap is too great and Ford are going to have to do something if they want to grab fleet customers who are having a tough time at the moment and are watching every penny."

Ford executives meeting at the company's headquarters at Brentwood, Essex, last week were privately acknowledging that they have been outflanked by Vauxhall.

Vauxhall sidestepped industry convention by refusing to take advantage of the higher Mondeo prices by raising the prices of Cavalier models. Instead, it pinned back the cost of many models and added "extras", such as the safety airbags featured in Mondeo advertising.

Mr Beque said: "Vauxhall has been very clever. Everyone expected Cavalier to go up, but it did not."

The problem of selling the Mondeo, whose prices range from £11,400 to £18,000, will deepen with the launch of a new Rover model on Wednesday. Rover is aiming its new mid-range car, called the 600 series and made at Cowley, Oxford, at BMW customers, not traditional Cavalier or Mondeo buyers. However, the company is likely to guarantee the price of 600 models until the end of the year.



All's fair: sales rivalry may cut Mondeo's price

Drugs rife at prison

BY RICHARD FORD

VIOLENCE and drug abuse are widespread in Britain's first privately-run jail, according to a report published today that criticises the level of disturbances and staffing. The drug culture in the prison has led some inmates to try to extend their stay.

A report by the Prison Reform Trust on Wolds remand prison, on Humberside, said that life in the prison was boring and aimless, with evidence of widespread violence and drug use. The trust said: "The drugs problem at Wolds is getting worse." One drug expert told the trust that heroin was freely available in the jail and that 80 per cent of the illegal drugs were smuggled in during visits.

The Wolds prison, run by

Group 4, opened a year ago as Britain's first private prison, and holds 320 unsentenced men.

The report by the trust, which is opposed to the privatisation of prisons, said that efforts to counter drug use had proved ineffective. However, drug abuse is not peculiar to the Wolds, Judge Tumlin, the chief inspector of prisons, has found evidence of drug use in many of the 128 jails in Britain.

The report concedes that the Wolds, where inmates spend 14 hours a day out of their cells, offers better entitlement to visits, staff treat prisoners with more respect, and it has more civilised conditions than Leeds and Hull prisons, which are in the same region.

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Test boys threaten junior school league talks

By Ben Pridmore, Staff Writer

THE first national primary school league tables, the outcome of government education reforms, are threatened by the threat of a boycott by teachers on the eve of the first league tables. Head teachers on the eve of the first league tables, the outcome of government education reforms, are threatened by the threat of a boycott by teachers on the eve of the first league tables.

The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Teachers (NASUWT) has proposed a boycott of the league tables, which are to be published in the next few weeks. The union claims that the tables are unfair and do not take into account the needs of individual schools.

The union's secretary, David Hart, said: "The league tables are a gross distortion of the truth. They are based on a narrow range of criteria and do not take into account the needs of individual schools. We are therefore proposing a boycott of the tables."

The league tables are to be published in the next few weeks. They will show the performance of primary schools across the country. The tables are based on a range of criteria, including the results of standardised tests, the progress of individual pupils, and the overall performance of the school.

The union claims that the tables are unfair because they do not take into account the needs of individual schools. For example, schools in disadvantaged areas may have higher levels of poverty and social problems, which can affect the results of the tests. The union also claims that the tables are based on a narrow range of criteria, which does not take into account the overall performance of the school.

The union's proposal for a boycott has been rejected by the government. The government claims that the league tables are a fair and accurate reflection of the performance of primary schools. It also claims that the tables are based on a wide range of criteria, which takes into account the needs of individual schools.

The league tables are to be published in the next few weeks. They will show the performance of primary schools across the country. The tables are based on a range of criteria, including the results of standardised tests, the progress of individual pupils, and the overall performance of the school.

Education must links with Church

A ROMAN Catholic bishop has called for changes in the Education Bill to strengthen the links between the Church and the education system.

The Bishop of London, Cardinal George Edmund Lyons, said that the Education Bill, which is currently being debated in Parliament, did not go far enough to strengthen the links between the Church and the education system.

Cardinal Lyons said that the bill should include provisions to ensure that the Church has a say in the running of schools. He also said that the bill should include provisions to ensure that the Church has a say in the appointment of teachers.

Cardinal Lyons said that the Church has a long history of involvement in education. He said that the Church has always been a strong supporter of education and that it has always played a central role in the running of schools.

Cardinal Lyons said that the Church has a duty to ensure that education is of the highest quality. He said that the Church has a duty to ensure that education is based on the principles of the Catholic faith.

Cardinal Lyons said that the Church has a duty to ensure that education is accessible to all. He said that the Church has a duty to ensure that education is free of charge for all pupils.



Cardinal Lyons wants links strengthened

FO warns tourists after Miami murder

BRITISH tourists were warned to take care when visiting Miami after a fatal shooting in the city.

The Foreign Office said that there had been a fatal shooting in Miami on the night of the 10th. The victim was a British tourist who was shot in the back of the head while walking on a sidewalk.

The Foreign Office said that the shooting was the result of a dispute between two men. One of the men was a British tourist and the other was a local man.

The Foreign Office said that tourists should be aware of the risk of violence in Miami. It said that tourists should avoid walking alone at night and should avoid walking on sidewalks.

The Foreign Office said that tourists should also be aware of the risk of terrorism in Miami. It said that tourists should be aware of the possibility of a terrorist attack and should be prepared to evacuate if necessary.

The Foreign Office said that it was keeping a close watch on the situation in Miami and would provide further advice as it became available.

Test boycott threatens junior school league tables

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION REPORTER

THE first national primary school league tables, the centrepiece of government education reforms, are threatened by the revolt against classroom tests by the second largest teaching union.

Head teachers say the first three weeks of the boycott by the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NAS/UNT) has jeopardised ministers' ability to produce comprehensive league tables based on the results of tests for seven-year-olds. The action is expected to gather momentum, worsening the situation, when the testing season gets into full swing after Easter.

The results were to have been the bedrock of performance league tables for all 19,000 state primary schools in England and Wales.

The impact of the NAS/UNT action on primary schools, where membership is relatively weak, is early evidence that the government's entire testing and assessment programme for pupils aged seven, 11 and 14 could collapse if the boycott spreads.

The High Court ruling on Friday, that the NAS/UNT boycott is legal, has increased the pressure on the National Union of Teachers and the moderate Association of Teachers and Lecturers to ballot members on a boycott.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT), which represents most primary heads, said that although the NAS/UNT action was patchy it was having a much greater effect than anticipated.

He said: "There is now a grave doubt over the league tables. The NAS/UNT has enough members in enough schools to make the results a lottery and threaten any sensible appraisal of performance."

He said that hundreds of head teachers were following

NAHT advice to abandon all testing where disruption meant incomplete results would not give a true picture of their school's performance. Action by one NAS/UNT teacher stopping testing for one class might be sufficient for a head teacher, after consultation with governors, to call off the tests for all pupils.

The NAS/UNT said the boycott had won solid support, even though the testing timetable had limited scope for immediate action. Tests at 14 do not take place in secondary schools, where 75 per cent of its membership is based, until June. Eamonn O'Kane, deputy general secretary, said secondary teachers were meanwhile refusing to waste time on "unnecessary" assessment requirements of the national curriculum.

Tests for seven-year-olds have borne the brunt of action so far because schools were allowed to start implementing them in February. In Birmingham, the tests in English, maths and science have been halted for 60 pupils at Ladypool primary school, Sparkbrook, because three out of four teachers involved are NAS/UNT members.

At Nansen primary school, Salford, the boycott has stopped testing in one class while two others are going ahead. Rob Hughes, the head teacher, said that unless the action was halted within a week of the start of the summer term, the school would be forced to consider scrapping the tests or not passing on the results to the education department.

David Parker, NAHT council member for West Yorkshire, said teachers were already refusing to implement the tests in about one in 15 local primaries and that this was likely to increase as more schools started.

Reading problems, page 1

Education must keep links with Church

A ROMAN Catholic bishop has called for changes in the Education Bill to safeguard the partnership between church and state.

The Rt Rev David Konstant, the bishop of Leeds and chairman of the Catholic Education Service for England and Wales, yesterday highlighted values he believed were missing from the bill, which is now before the House of Lords.

The proposals failed to recognise the Catholic Church's place in public education, which must be "clearly on the statute book", he said. "We seek only those amendments that will ensure the partner-

ship in education that has existed between the state and the churches should be maintained and improved."

There are more than 2,500 Catholic schools in England and Wales, with 773,000 pupils. "Catholic education is known for the attention it gives to spiritual and moral values," said the bishop. "These are in sharp contrast to many of the values promoted by our culture: individualism, secularism and materialism."

"We need to stress the non-utilitarian view of education. Decisions on the provision of school places must not be made solely or mainly on grounds of money."

The bishop called for:

- Church representation on the proposed central funding agency for schools.
- Free transport for children attending church and rural schools to be written into the law.
- Designation of Catholic grant-maintained schools in such a way that links with the church are not weakened.
- Recognition for diocesan school commissions or their equivalents.

□ The right for the church to appoint a majority of members to a proposed Education Association set up to take over the running of any Catholic school judged to be failing.



Konstant wants links safeguarded

FO warns tourists after Miami murder

By LOUISE HIDALGO

BRITISH tourists were yesterday advised to take care when visiting Miami after a German woman was murdered within an hour of arriving in the United States.

Barbara Jensen Mellor's two young children reportedly had to look on as their mother was mugged and then killed by two assailants as she drove a rented car in search of their hotel. She is the sixth foreigner to have been murdered in Florida since December.

The attackers rammed the rented car as Mrs Mellor searched for the hotel she had booked. It is family she left the car to thought the damage when the two men pounced on her, grabbing her purse and beating her savagely, before running her over.

There has been a marked

increase in armed thefts involving rental cars in Miami, one of the United States' most popular holiday destinations. Last week, another German tourist and his son were shot and injured by thieves. It follows attacks on foreign tourists dating back to last autumn when Keith Thompson, 42, a postman from Chelmsford, Essex, was shot in the car park of an Orlando hotel after refusing to hand over his wallet.

The Foreign Office yesterday urged British tourists to take precautions when holidaying in Miami and advised them against carrying large amounts of money.

Miami police said assailants would sometimes tail tourists from the airport, identifying them from stickers advertising the car hire firm.



All change: Heather Hallett QC, believes selection is unfair

Barristers call for end to 'judicial whispers' system of selecting QCs

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADING members of the Bar are pressing for an end to the secret system by which barristers are selected to become Queen's Counsel.

In the wake of the prime minister's pledge to open up the honours system, barristers want to do away with much of the secrecy surrounding the system of appointing silks based on what some call "unattributable judicial whispers".

The 1993 QCs will be appointed by the Queen this week, on the Lord Chancellor's advice, after what is believed to be a record number of almost 700 applications. Only one-tenth that number is expected to be chosen, with the promise of an immediate surge in earning power to at least two or three times what the applicant earned as a junior barrister.

There is no fixed number of silks, so called because QCs wear silk gowns, but the aim is to keep the total proportion at about 10 per cent of the practising Bar. If rejected, barristers are not told why. The suitability or otherwise of a barrister for promotion is gleaned by officials from judicial comments and Bar leaders in their field of work, and retained on a file which is not open for scrutiny.

Heather Hallett QC, chairman of

the Bar's public affairs committee, said: "Many of us would like to see more openness in the system, with wider consultation. The main criticism tends to be the lack of reasons for being rejected. There are, for instance, some very senior barristers who apply year after year, and perhaps it would be fairer to them to say, 'You are never going to make it'."

The previous Bar chairman, now Lord Williams QC, a Labour legal affairs spokesman in the Lords, criticised the system as "deeply flawed". As a result of representations he made to Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, the Bar chairman is now asked to put forward positive recommendations, which was done for the first time this year. Lord Williams believes much more could be done.

He told a meeting of the Bar in November that current procedures "caused an enormous amount of distress and anxiety" to those applying, and has proposed a system of appeal. To date, what he says is a "moderate" request has been refused, and a spokesman for the Lord Chancellor's department said he knew of no intended changes to the present system.

"The system is so extraordinary, that it needs no exaggeration," Lord

Williams said. "If you describe it, people don't believe you." An article in the Bar magazine, *Counsel*, this week points out that the selection of QCs in Scotland is less secretive and not dependent to the same extent "upon unattributable judicial whispers". It calls for the setting up of a panel, whose names would be published, of senior members of the practising profession. The panel would advise the prime minister, not the Lord Chancellor, on suitable applicants.

There is also concern that too few women apply. This is confirmed in a recent survey by the Bar and Lord Chancellor's department, although Lord Mackay has publicly exhorted women several times to put themselves forward. Women make up only 5.3 per cent of all QCs. In May 1992, there were 41 women QCs of a total of 760. Women account for 15.3 per cent of the available pool for QCs of those with at least 10 years at the Bar, and 11.88 per cent of the available pool of those with 15-22 years at the Bar.

The survey called for positive action to encourage women, including the setting of targets for women QCs by area of work and a confidential complaints procedure for those who felt they had been passed over.

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MPs accuse Spain of breaching UN charter over jailed Welshmen

FROM JAMIE DETTMER
IN BARCELONA

HUMAN rights campaigners have been angered by the case of three young men from South Wales who have been held on attempted murder charges, without trial, in Barcelona for nearly two years.

Welsh Labour politicians argue that the imprisonment without trial amounts to breach of a United Nations charter requiring countries to ensure criminal suspects are brought to trial "within a reasonable time". Prisoners Abroad and Fair Trials Abroad have denounced the men's treatment.

The story of Jamie Humphreys, a baker from Bridgend, and Alan and Paul Sell, painters and decorators from Cardiff, are being held in Spain where the

judicial system is "almost Napoleonic", as one British lawyer said last week. The wait for trial can be very long, and prison conditions are 19th-century.

Wayne David, Labour MEP for South Wales, and Rhodri Morgan and Win Griffiths, Labour MPs for Cardiff West and Bridgend, say the British government has not been doing enough for the Welshmen held in Barcelona's Centro Penitenciari de Jovenes. It was Mr David, rather than the Foreign Office or the British Consulate, who had the Sell brothers moved from the violent Modelo jail in Barcelona. He is now taking up the case with the European Parliament.

In an interview with *The Times* at the weekend, the three men repeatedly asked whether British foreign ministers would intervene. Their despair has mounted

following a second postponement of their trial. Last November the case was put back because the Turkish holidaymaker the Welshmen are alleged to have stabbed failed to have a medical examination prior to the hearing. Last month, the hearing was adjourned again because the victim, Celik Bilet, and another Turkish witness failed to arrive from Germany, where they live.

The men's Spanish lawyers fear that the Turks will not turn up on May 5, the next date for the trial, and that the prosecution will again ask for the Welshmen to remain in prison.

Senor Jose Luis Ortiz said: "I cannot put my hand on my heart and say it will be OK next month. This is an unusual trial and has taken far too long."

In a spartan visitors' room at their jail, the Welshmen described how shocked they were when arrested. "We were sitting in the hotel when the police came and a Turk pointed me out," said Mr Humphreys, 19. "We had no idea what was happening, as we couldn't speak Spanish and the police didn't speak any English. We were put in the same room as the Turkish witness, but he shook his head when the police pointed to Alan and Paul."

According to the prosecution, the night-time stabbing occurred after two Turkish boys took two English girls to the beach. The Turkish witness alleges that he recognised Mr Humphreys' face in the dark even though he was about 100 yards away. The police maintain that as the Welshmen were on holiday together, they were all involved. There had been

trouble between British and Turkish young men two days before in the Costa Brava resort of Calella, when the Turkish witness was allegedly involved in a fight that Humphreys stepped in and stopped. "For stopping a fight, we have been in prison for two years," said Alan Sell, 25.

During their hour-long interview with *The Times*, which was unsupervised, the men frequently referred to the dangers in the Centro Penitenciari and the ordeal Alan Sell and his brother Paul, 23, went through during their five months in Modelo.

Alarmed by the reputation of Modelo, Mr David insisted they were moved. "I honestly think that the British consul could have done more for the youths," he said at the time.

Alan Sell said conditions were now

better, but still bad. "There are knives everywhere. At the weekend the place is full of drugs and people shooting up. People are always cutting themselves up. They are just desperate. All we are waiting for is to go to court. Why won't they look at the evidence?"

Ann Humphreys, Jamie's mother, said: "I was stunned when I first heard of their arrest, but we had to get money, about £30,000 for all three, for the lawyers." The families have so far raised more than £10,000.

Jose Luis Solano, counsellor at the Spanish embassy in London, said he was not aware of the details of the case. "We also have cases of Spanish citizens held in prison here in Britain."

Long wait, page 1

Christians retreat to a quiet life over Easter

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

MORE people than ever, including those with little or no faith, are seeking the solace of a Christian retreat over Easter. This year, monastic communities and retreat houses report that hundreds of Christians, a few dozen agnostics, and even some atheists, will be escaping the pressures of secular life on a religious retreat.

Father Peter Verity, spokesman for the Roman Catholic Church, said: "Retreats are a chance to stand back and reflect on the important things in life. They help people to get in touch with their deeper spiritual side, which can sometimes be hidden in the bustle of everyday living."

Retreats can vary from silent weekend meditations and prayer to month-long devotions learning the difficult spiritual exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola. Some centres offer retreats on a theme, such as painting, walking, gardening or calligraphy.

According to Judith Lampard, executive officer of the National Retreat Association, a federation of retreat groups, increasing numbers are taking retreats although no central body collates figures. "Some people go who are Christians and have church links, others who are on the fringes. It used to be yuppies getting away from the rat race. Now it is people wanting to get away from threatened redundancies."

The association lists 170 retreat houses of all denomi-

nations in its magazine, *Vision*.

Father Peter, of the Anglican monastery at Crawley, West Sussex, said: "Easter gets booked up early because it is a major feast. There is a growing interest in retreats. People are discovering the importance of silence and the monastic life."

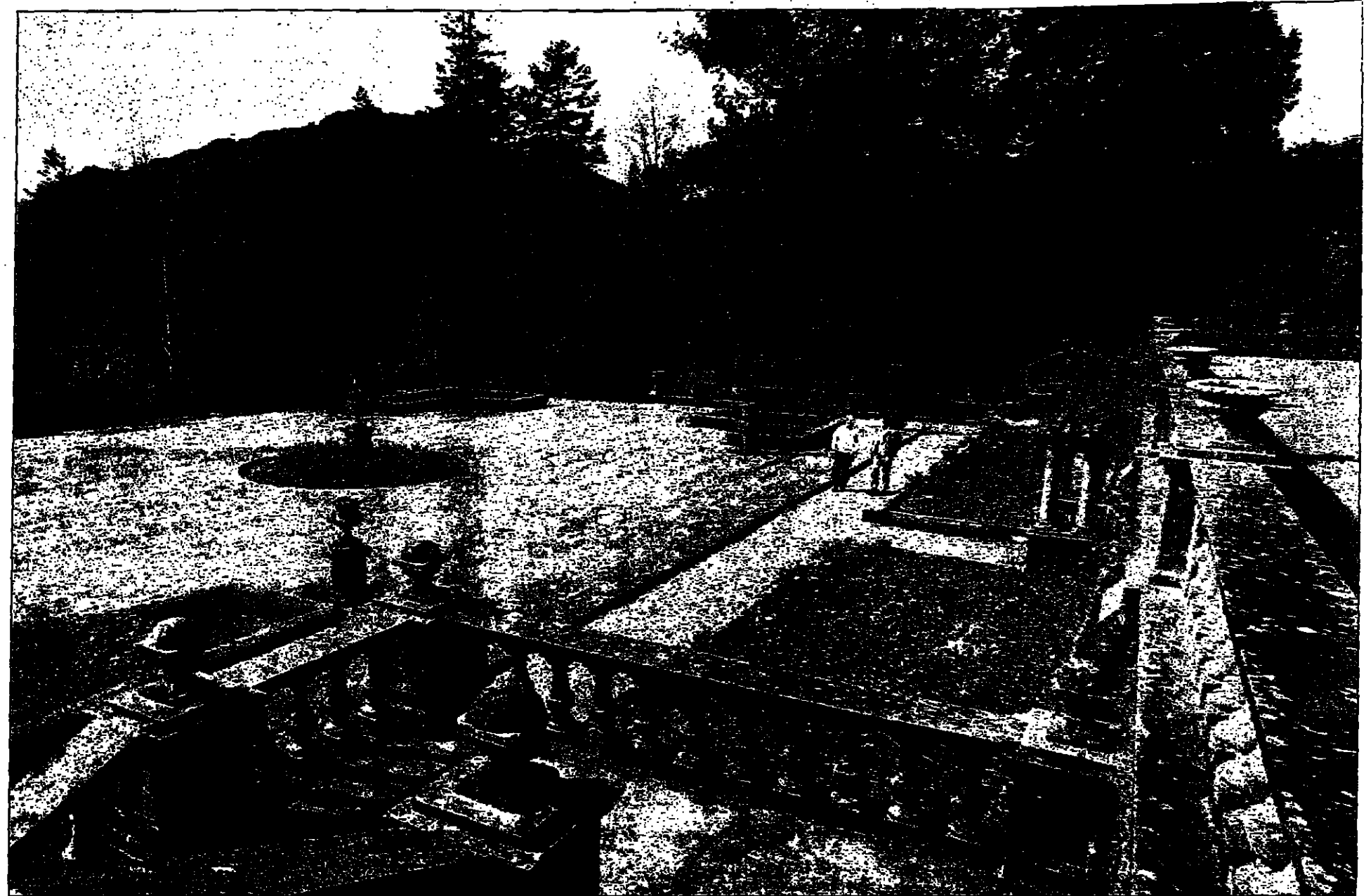
Most retreats are cheaper than an equivalent stay in a hotel. At Crawley, guests are asked to give, not to pay, bearing in mind that it costs £10 a day to keep them.

Geoffrey Gerard, an Anglican lay reader who has visited more than 100 monasteries and retreat houses, says increasing numbers are spending time, usually weekends, away from the stress of everyday life. "This gives you a chance to be still, not tossed about by this worry or that problem," he said.

In his book, *Away From It All*, recently released, Mr Gerard writes: "You have an opportunity to think more clearly about God and prayer; you can see better the needs of the world in which we live; you can think about other people and see how to help them."

Vacancies are limited, but some communities and retreat centres can take guests around Easter. These include:

The Community of St Francis, Compton Durville, South Petherton, Somerset TA13 5ES. Tel: 0460 40473. Anglican community in 17th century manor house. Half a dozen vacancies only. Catholic Dioce-



Path of peace: the gardens of Rydal Hall in Cumbria, one of several retreats where places are available over Easter, and where guests can get away from everyday pressures

san Conference & Retreat Centre, Rydal Hall, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9LX. Tel: 05394 32050. Anglican retreat centre in a former stately home overlooking Rothay Valley. Vacancies for Holy Week and Easter house party.

Chester Diocesan Conference Centre, Foxhill, Tarvin Road, Frodsham, Warrington, Cheshire WA6 6XB. Tel: 0928 33777. One room remains for post-Easter house party.

The Society of Mary and Martha, The Sheldon Centre, Dunsford, Exeter, Devon EX6 7LE. Tel: 0647 52752. Ecumenical charity in converted 15th century farm. Handful of vacancies remain for Easter. The Royal Foundation of St

Katharine, 2 Butcher Row, London, E14 8DS. Tel: 071-790 3540. Guests invited to join sisters and brothers in two rooms remaining for Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday conference. From Death to Life.

Loyola Hall Spirituality Centre, Warrington Road, Rainhill, Prescot, Merseyside L35 6NZ. Tel: 051-426 4137.

Vacancies remain for young adults' Holy Week retreat from April 7-11. St Columba's House, Maybury Hill, Woking, Surrey GU22 8AB. Tel: 0483 766498. Small number of rooms left for retreat from Wednesday until Easter Day. Meditation and looking at Easter liturgy. Glenfall House, Harp Hill, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL54 4EP. Tel: 0242 583654. Agency mansion on western scarp of Cotswolds. Handful of vacancies remain for "Journey through Holy Week".

Winchester Diocesan House, Old Alresford Place, Old Alresford, Hampshire SO24 9DH. Tel: 0962 732518. Carmelite Friars, Hazlewood Castle, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire LS24 9NJ. Tel: 0937 832738. Holy Week retreat begins Thursday. One or two vacancies remain. For a full list of year-round retreats, contact the National Retreat Association, Liddon House, 24 South Audley St, London W1Y 8DL. Tel: 071-493 3534.



Under cover: Suzanne Mizzi, the model, and Egon Ronay are taking no chances with their working assets

Lloyd's insures tastebuds for £250,000

By NICK NUTTALL

THE palate of one of Britain's leading food and restaurant critics made history yesterday when it was insured by Lloyd's of London.

Egon Ronay, author of a best selling guide, joins the list of celebrities and sportsmen who over the past century have insured body parts against damage, disfigurement or loss. Mr Ronay has secured £250,000 of cover against losing his redoubtable sense of taste.

The body parts specifically covered are understood to be his tastebuds, the tiny barrel-shaped organs that allow him to assess the merits of a fine steak tartare or perfectly cooked chicken in a basket.

Mr Ronay said yesterday: "Sculptors earn their living with their hands, chorus girls with their legs and perfume

blenders with their sense of smell. These are their tools, mine is my palate." Under the terms of cover, Lloyd's will pay 90 per cent of the sum insured after three months if Mr Ronay convinces underwriters that his taste buds have genuinely declined.

The food critic would appear to be on a winner. According to *Black's Medical Dictionary*, "Like other sensations, taste can be very highly educated for a time, as in tea-tasters and wine-tasters. But this special adaptation is lost after some years."

Among those who have taken out cover for profitable parts of their body, comedian Ken Dodd is said to have insured his front teeth for £4 million, and Jimmy "Schnozzle" Durante secured cover

worth £50,000 for his prominent nose. Possibly the most famous person to take out such a policy was Fred Astaire. In common with Betty Grable, he insured his legs for several hundred thousand pounds.

In 1948 Frank Morgan, a Hollywood actor, made history by having his distinctive moustache insured with Lloyd's for £2,500. Ben Turpin, the silent film comedian, took out a £20,000 policy against his cross-eyes becoming straight. The voice of Italian soprano Margherita Carosio — who in the early 1950s was one of the world's highest-paid opera stars — was insured for £100,000.

More recently, guitarist Keith Richards of the *Rolling Stones* is said to have insured

one of his fingers for £1 million, and Nigel Benn, the boxer, is said to have secured £10 million worth of cover for his fists. Suzanne Mizzi, the model, insured her whole body for £10 million.

In 1971, Robin Huggessen, a manufacturer of chastity belts, took out a £20,000 insurance policy with Lloyd's covering attacks by members of the women's liberation movement.

But perhaps the most unusual cover was taken out by the boys of Lowestoft Grammar school. In 1959, two pupils started an insurance society to cover their fellows against discipline. For three old pence a week, members would get four shillings if caught, three shillings if put in detention and a shilling a night for extra work.

Infant's 'defeat of HIV' cheers researchers

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A BABY who apparently contracted the Aids virus from his mother and fought it off may point a way to a vaccine against the disease.

The infant, now 18 months and doing well, was born to a mother who had caught Aids from her haemophilic husband. At birth, the baby's blood contained HIV, the virus responsible for Aids. At five months, doctors detected even clearer evidence, the presence in his blood of the type of white blood cells that the body mobilises to try to fight HIV.

These cytotoxic T lymphocytes, or CTLs, are the killers that can prevent the progression of HIV infection to full Aids. Normally, however, they are eventually overwhelmed.

Dr Frances Gotch, of the Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford, one of a group from Oxford, Edinburgh and London who report the case in the current issue of *The Lancet*, says: "We often find HIV antibodies in the blood, but these are often from the mother and appear whether the baby is infected or not. But CTLs indicate that this baby almost certainly was infected with HIV at some point. At six months, this child had CTLs, but by 13 months there was no trace of these, or the virus. In effect, it looks like he has somehow cured himself."

Normally, Dr Gotch says, people with HIV produce vast quantities of CTLs, but they normally cannot get rid of all of the infection. "People can seem well for as much as ten years before developing full-blown Aids," he says.

Work in France has shown that HIV-positive mothers' babies who do well usually show a strong CTL response, and Dr Gotch says that CTLs may point a way to an Aids vaccine.

Abuse by therapists is growing problem

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SEXUAL abuse by psychologists and psychotherapists in Britain may be much more widespread than previously supposed, a survey has shown.

Almost 25 per cent of clinical psychologists say that they have treated patients who have been abused by previous therapists. Dr John Marzillier will tell the annual conference of the British Psychological Society today.

Four per cent admit to having had sexual affairs with clients, though this is prohibited under the ethical codes psychologists are supposed to follow.

Dr Marzillier, a psychologist who chairs the society's professional affairs board standing committee on the psychotherapies, says that the

British Psychological Society believes that statutory registration of psychologists would make it possible to prevent those who are from continuing to practise.

In the past four years, the society has considered 20 complaints and has struck three people off its register. Seven are still under investigation and five resigned while the hearing was still in progress, but because the register has no statutory force, all those struck off can continue to practise.

"American evidence shows that those who are abused do suffer," Dr Marzillier said. "They are vulnerable people who may in extreme cases be driven to suicide."

Katherine Mair, a forensic psychologist at the Royal Cornhill Hospital in Aberdeen, told the conference yesterday that patients guilty of minor sexual offences such as indecent exposure are more likely to re-offend than those found guilty of more serious crimes.

In a survey of 75 offenders found guilty of a range of sexual offences from obscene telephone calls to rape, Mrs Mair found no tendency for the more minor offenders to progress to more serious crimes.

She followed up offenders convicted in three northeast Scotland courts in 1981 and 1982, and found that over ten years those whose crimes involved no contact with their victims — including "flashers" and obscene callers — were far more likely to do it again. But among the 23 offenders who had touched their victims, none had repeated the offence.

Mrs Mair, who works with offenders in prisons and in the community, said: "My research refutes the belief that voyeurs and flashers can develop into a major threat. Obviously there will be exceptions but in general they are more a nuisance than a danger."

Teenager killed at hunt protest

A teenager who joined a protest against fox hunting died from severe internal injuries after being crushed under the wheels of a horse box. Thomas Worby, 15, of Milton Keynes, was with a group of saboteurs at the Cambridge hunt, Wareley, on Saturday. A group of protesters had halted the hunt when the horse box moved off. The boy's coat became caught on a part of the vehicle and he was dragged under.

The driver of the horse box was questioned by police and released on bail.

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Body identified

Police have identified the body found at Ainsdale Beach, Merseyside, as Sharon Louise Cooper, 25, of Warrington, Cheshire. A man has appeared before North Serton magistrates and police were given a warrant to detain him for 36 hours.

Bingo killing

An elderly woman has been stabbed to death and her daughter critically injured at a bingo club. Police arrested a man after the incident in the club in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The daughter's condition is critical.

Dolphin show

Up to 40 dolphins are providing a spectacular sight in the sea off Land's End, Cornwall, by jumping in the air when they gather to feed.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly Premium Bonds draw: £100,000, bond 24BT 520265, winner from Cumbria (value of holding, £2,000); £50,000, 32DT 757823, Buckinghamshire (£10,000); £25,000, 11RZ 297723, Surrey (£1,250).

Lack of single European policy on conflict played into Serb hands

THE Bosnian Serb parliament is in the phrase of a Balkan wit, about as democratic as a firing squad.

By rejecting the map of Bosnia that forms a key part of the Owen-Vance plan, the Bosnian Serbs on Friday once again unhinged the peace process. The firing squad — most of the self-appointed deputies carry pistols — is reloading for a new fusillade in the year-old Bosnian war.

Since the European Community recognised Bosnia as an independent state on April 6 1992, it has had to think hard about the meaning of Europe. Does the continent end at the Balkans? Is the "common European home" essentially a Christian idea — and the Bosnian war a religious war? At what point does



One year on, the war has reached a decisive stage. A determined test of the Serbs' strength may expose their frailty, Roger Boyes writes

a European humanitarian tragedy become a European political, or even military obligation?

It is now a commonplace that Europe has failed Bosnia over the past 12 months, chiefly because it could not solve or at times even articulate the big issues behind the war. Certainly, there was a general inability to understand Serbia's war motives and the internal dynamics of Serbian politics.

But the failure was not

exclusively European — the United States, paralysed by presidential election campaigns, contributed a great deal to the blurring of the crisis. The State Department under James Baker seemed to be conditioned as much by the memories of the American civil war, as by any information coming from the Balkans.

Europe's broken counter-attacks, unsuccessful ceasefires, the Serbo-Croat war. But only when the two armies had reached stalemate did a

patchy peace take hold. Similar diplomacy was applied in Bosnia.

But the Serbs were already alert to the deficiencies of the West. Europe did not have a single foreign policy so states could be played off against each other. There was, and still is, no policy for resolving the Bosnian war.

The cardinal European error was to encourage the Serbs and Croats to believe that there was international acceptance for a canonisation of the country. Division of Bosnia was discussed by the Serbs and Croats as early as the summer of 1991.

That was when the Bosnian Serbs, who made up one-third of the Bosnian population, started to lay claims to two-thirds of the country. In the

autumn of 1991, the Serbs announced that they had established four separate autonomous areas in Bosnia. The Croats meanwhile were already treating western Herzegovina as a colony, enforcing Croatian law and circulating the Croatian currency.

The EC idea was to shape a loose Swiss-style confederation out of Bosnia: this was interpreted as a green light for ethnic cleansing since only "ethnically pure" cantons made any sense for the Serbs. Backed by the Yugoslav army, they waged an easy blitzkrieg in eastern Bosnia, herding tens of thousands of Muslims out of their homes.

Bosnia has collapsed as a nation state. All its leader, Alija Izetbegovic, can do is hope that one day a new

Bosnia can be built around Sarajevo, linking up with the other Muslim territories guaranteed by the Owen-Vance plan. It is a slim hope.

The Bosnian Muslims' claim to nationhood is precarious — Tito awarded them nationality status, equal to the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes — and they are far from homogeneous.

The Owen-Vance map, if it can ever be agreed or enforced, recognises the territorial integrity of Bosnia and gives the government a largely theoretical range of central powers.

The Owen-Vance plan's detailed framework for constitutional change and its timetable for disarmament make sense. It also embodies some rough justice in obliging the Serbs to hand over some of

their captured land. But its main value is that it builds in an element of threat. Many thousands more soldiers will be needed on the ground to make the plan work. Until there is a Western political consensus for such a beefed up military presence, the plan will be merely a piece of paper. But something could happen quickly if the Russians put pressure on the Serbs to agree the plan.

The war has reached a decisive stage. The land the Serbs claim in the north of Bosnia is only shakily in their hands; big chunks of territory are effectively no man's land.

The war is brutal but it is being fought in a very patchy way that may disguise Serbian military weakness. It is no great military achievement to

bombard Sarajevo housewives, or block unarmed United Nations aid convoys. The Serbs lack the energy and the resources to score decisive victories.

A determined Western test of Serbian strength at this moment might well expose the real frailty of the Serbian position. As yet the no-fly zone is a rather restricted affair and there is no question of bombing Serbian targets. But the first time Serbian military power will be openly challenged. To end the Bosnian crisis one would have to change the way that the Serbs look at this, or any, war.

If the West shirks from this task, it will show itself to be as much a hostage to the Serbs as those unfortunate Bosnian Muslims in prison camps.

Karadzic calls for round table peace talks with Muslims

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

RADOVAN Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, claimed yesterday that the Bosnian peace process was not dead and that talks should continue. On Saturday the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb parliament voted not to accept the Owen-Vance peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina, but Dr Karadzic denied this amounted to rejection.

"It is not correct that we have rejected the Owen-Vance peace plan as a whole," said Dr Karadzic, "but only the elements of the peace plan which have not been adjusted yet." The Bosnian Serbs reject the map of Bosnia drawn up by Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance because it deprives them of a land corridor in northern Bosnia and along the Drina valley.

Dr Karadzic then echoed the Bosnian Serb parliamentary resolution and called on the international community to promote face-to-face talks between the warring parties. "If the Muslims are not ready to sit down and talk face to face with the Serbs how can they say we can live together in one state?"

He said he was encouraged by the reaction of Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, to the parliamentary session. Mr Christopher said that the Serb resolution was "regrettable" but "on the other hand, as I read the story, they left the door open and I think we ought to continue to try to persuade them to join the peace plan... to continue to persuade them it's in their self-interest as well as the world's interest to bring this slaughter to an end."

Dr Karadzic's interpretation

of the parliamentary session has set Mr Clinton a ponder when he returns to the White House today to reassess US policy towards Bosnia. At the top of his agenda will be the question of whether the air strikes he proposed during the election campaign last year should be reconsidered. There is also his threat, reiterated last week despite British objections, to lift the United Nations embargo on supplying arms to Bosnian Muslims.

There was dismay in Washington over the Serbs' intransigence, plus their breaching of the ceasefire after six days, and also a morose recognition that they had called President Clinton's bluff. He has issued various warnings to the Serbs to no avail. They have grasped that the American Congress and public have no stomach for the deployment of US ground troops to seize and hold ground in Bosnia.

Yesterday the UN humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo resumed after a break of more than two weeks. It was suspended after a British plane had been shot at. A convoy also succeeded in getting into the besieged eastern Bosnian Muslim-held town of Srebrenica. Eight lorries delivered 75 tonnes of food to the mountain settlement.

The convoy, which had been expected to bring out hundreds of women, children and wounded, however, left empty. UN officials said the Muslim leaders had refused to allow the refugees to be evacuated. Lyndall Sachs, a spokeswoman in Belgrade for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said: "We are very disappointed. We will

continue to try to evacuate people and get aid." The UNHCR has evacuated nearly 5,000 people from Srebrenica over the past two weeks but 13 women and children died in the chaos surrounding the convoys.

The departure of civilians is making the town increasingly vulnerable to attack by Serbs who have besieged it since the Bosnian civil war began a year ago. Serb forward positions are within a few hundred yards of the town at some points and UN peacekeepers reported heavy fighting around it on Saturday.

The Bosnian Serb military leader, General Ratko Mladic, had told the UN that he would not allow more food and medicine to be brought to the town and said that he would allow in only empty lorries to evacuate the population of Srebrenica.

The UN Security Council rejected this as a permissible move, condemning the Bosnian Serb party whom it said: "in pursuit of its unlawful, unacceptable and abhorrent policy of 'ethnic cleansing' aimed at territorial aggrandisement has blocked the UN's humanitarian effort."

In Herzegovina, the Croat mirror state of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb Republic, the authorities have given the Bosnian government an ultimatum, signed by its leader Mate Boban, to sign away their authority in areas claimed by the Croats. The Croats are demanding full control in two provinces where, according to the Owen-Vance plan, the Bosnian army was to remain with Bosnian Croat forces.

Sarajevo's lunatic nightmare continues

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

SARAJEVO has changed since the war began a year ago tomorrow. What was a peaceful town has become a lunatic asylum. Telephones only work within the town when they function at all; the water is rarely on, and the same goes for the electricity.

Many of the town's buildings are totally destroyed, including the library, many museums and mosques. The only old buildings that have been spared by the Serb gunners are the Orthodox and Catholic churches.

The thousands of wooden grave markers at the Lion's cemetery cover not only the original hills of the graveyard, but the neighbouring football pitch. There are so many that from afar it looks like a plantation of small leafless trees.

However, the biggest change is not physical, but in the minds of those who have, so far, escaped death. They are still alive, but they are no longer among the living.

If turning Sarajevo into a mad house was not the plan of Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, when his forces first laid siege to the city, it should have been. Although they have not taken Sarajevo, and may never, they have won a partial victory — life will never again be the same. Sarajevo is the city of walking wounded.

It is a city of people who speak about a pregnant woman who was saved because her unborn baby absorbed shrapnel from a mortar, and laugh. Then they cry, look you in the face and ask what has happened to



Playtime in Sarajevo: an 11-year-old boy aims a Yugoslav manufactured 64mm rocket launcher at some of his friends as they play at the weekend in Sarajevo, almost a year to the day since the conflict began

them. It is a city of people who, when their building is being raked by machinegun fire, open a window and pull in the laundry so it does not get shot up. It is a city of people who run across a crossroads under sniper fire to get two loaves of bread or to fetch water to wash their hair.

But most of all, it has become a city of hate. Too many people have been killed; too many have grown accustomed to killing and

too many have watched their friends, brothers, sisters, parents and children die.

Life has been completely unlivable for a year, but still the living wake up and face another day; the nightmare continues. And slowly, over the months, people's insides have been sucked away.

"I can kill now," explained one 23-year-old soldier with a shrug. He nodded his head over to a group of waiters in the Sarajevo Holiday Inn's restaurant. "I can kill them,"

he said, with another shrug and a smile. He looked out the one window of the restaurant not covered by heavy curtains to protect diners from flying glass. "It is no problem. I do it every day."

Before the war he was a mechanical engineering student and had never touched a gun or been in a fist fight. Last year, on April 6, when Serb snipers began shooting into a crowd of people vainly demonstrating for peace, he joined a police commando

unit. As he explains it, he wanted to stop the criminals from killing innocent people. So did his 17-year-old brother who is now in a hospital, severely wounded.

During the conversation, peppered by a few ear-drum-shattering explosions, as artillery shells fell very close by. The windows rattled and the 12-storey hotel, built for the 1984 Olympic Games shook. But there was no pause in the conversation and only a few people flinched.

A year of tragedy

City's drama masked other horrors

BY TIM JUDAH

Mate Blazevic, a member of the crisis committee of Bosanski Brod, touched the wound on his face and said: "The civil war has begun, and it has begun right here in our town."

That was a year ago on March 29. Serbs were shelling the northern Bosnian town and Muslims were manning its defences alongside battle-hardened Croatian troops in sunglasses. Thousands of panicked people jammed the bridge over the Sava river as they fled to Croatia. It was October, however, before Bosanski Brod fell and its bridge dynamited.

For weeks the early warning signs had been flashing. On March 2, Nikola Gardovic, a Serb, was gunned down at a Sarajevo wedding. Serb militia threw up barricades across the city and Sarajevo radio was already reporting clashes and "several deaths" in Bosanski Brod.

At the beginning of April, Arkan, as Zeljko Raznjajevic, the Serb militia leader, is known, seized the northern town of Bijeljina. A blitzkrieg followed.

In the next few weeks his men, backed by the Yugoslav Army, moved south to capture all the important towns on the Drina river controlling the bridges to other towns, including Banja Luka and Mostar.

On April 4, the last day of the Muslim festival of Ramadan, President Izetbegovic, the Bosnian Muslim leader, declared a mobilisation. The Serbs too little too late. The Serbs had been bequeathed the might of the Yugoslav Army; the Bosnians had no army.

In Sarajevo, Jose-Maria



Aspects of war: while the world was mesmerised by the despair of Sarajevo, left, the misery of the Serb-run detention camps went almost unnoticed until British journalists brought back pictures like this of Bosnians in the camp at Omarska

Mendilovic, the special envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said that 10,000 people were already in flight, adding: "We are not very optimistic." This will perhaps be remembered as the war's greatest understatement. At least 1.3 million Bosnians, more than 40 per cent of the population, are now refugees.

Things were moving fast. On April 6 the European Community recognised the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina. In the previous 48 hours Serb leaders had left the Holiday Inn in central Sarajevo and decamped to their stronghold at Pale, ten miles to the east. Thousands of people demonstrated for the crowd from the Holiday Inn and the Bosnian police stormed the building. Shells began to crash on the city. The siege had begun. On April 9 the buses out stopped running. More than 300,000 people were trapped.

The passion of Sarajevo began and the world was mesmerised by it. While the attention of the world was fixed on the Bosnian capital, however, whole towns were being snuffed out in the darkness where there were no international television cameras to record their fate.

Serbs rounded up Muslims in areas around Prijedor and Sanski Most. Towns such as Korzanic and Pudin Han were laid waste. Serb tanks drove up the main road blasting every house. The infamous detention camps were opened. Serbs in Croat areas were seized.

Croatian units stormed south across the border to whip untrained Bosnian Muslims and Croats into shape and to seize Posavina. This is the crucial part of northern Bosnia which links Serbia to the Serb-held territories around Banja Luka and to Croatia itself. Derventa, Modrica, Odzak and Brcko

were in Serb hands by the beginning of July, but they were nothing but ghostly ruins.

With the Serb capture of Posavina and the northern corridor, the lines stabilised. The only large town to fall after that was Jajce. Since then the Serbs have battled to end resistance in unconquered pockets of eastern Bosnia such as Srebrenica and Gorazde, and the Muslims and Croats have made repeated and unsuccessful attempts to cut the northern corridor.

Vast population exchanges have taken place. Huge areas are depopulated, industry is destroyed and hundreds of thousands of people have fled abroad or are waiting for their chance to do so.

When Miroslav Mandic, 20, an embittered Croat fighter of the vanquished First Bosnian Dragons Volunteer Shock Brigade, fled across the Sava in July he said: "We have been betrayed. Bosnia is Serbia now and Herzegovina is Croatia."

Newspaper reaches out to the world

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

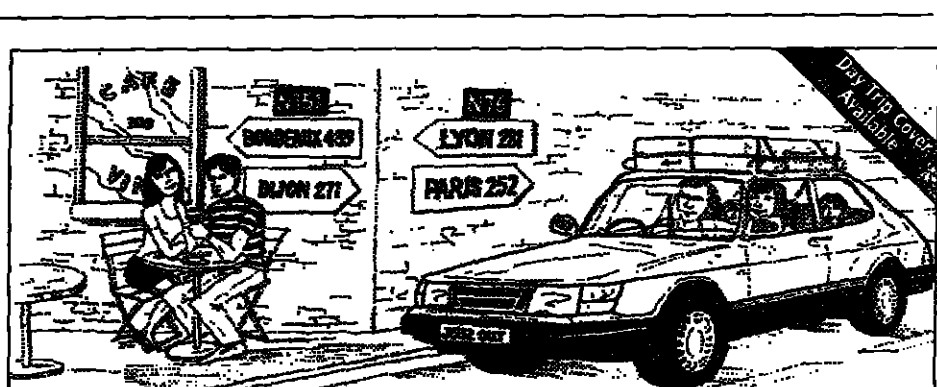
LIKE a lone voice crying in the wind, *Ostobodenje*, Bosnia-Herzegovina's only remaining independent daily newspaper, will be sold on the rubble-strewn streets of Sarajevo today, as it has been virtually every day since the siege of the city began a year ago.

This morning, the team of journalists, who have lived through sniper fire, shelling, the deaths of four colleagues and the disappearance of 12 others, have a special cause for celebration. Their paper, whose circulation has been reduced from 60,000 before the war to 5,000, will also appear in Slovenia, Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia.

More than 15 million readers in the rest of Europe, the Middle East, North America and Japan will also have the opportunity to buy facsimile editions. The four-page facsimile is being translated and distributed by Reporters Sans Frontières and World Media Network, the Paris-based press freedom groups, with the help of national newspapers in 31 countries.

In a gesture of solidarity, 25 leading writers, including Sir Stephen Spender, the British poet and critic, John Banville, the Irish author, and Czeslaw Milosz, the American Nobel prize-winning poet and author, today will each send an open letter to *Ostobodenje*, which means liberation, expressing support for the journalists' stance against nationalism and "ethnic cleansing".

Donations to provide material help for *Ostobodenje* can be sent to: Fondation de France, *Ostobodenje*, Acc No 500417, 49 Avenue Hoche, 75008, Paris, France.



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Kitsch takes place of content when not-so-super powers meet



Roosevelt: architect of first world summit

FROM ANNE McELROY
IN VANCOUVER

OCCASIONALLY, when a marble-eyed White House security guard barked that it was imperative to wear identity tags at all times — yes ma'am, even in the hotel bar and the restrooms — or when the Russian bodyguards wordlessly barged by standers out of the way even when their charge wanted to shake hands with them, it was possible to catch a Proustian whiff of that old summit magic.

Vancouver was smiles all round and all but the most ardent self-deceiver could glimpse the truth behind the facade of helicopters, motorcades and barricades: the art of the summit is dead. It went along with the Cold war, when a summit was a meeting of great opponents who were prepared to lace the implacable hostility of their relation-

ship with the occasional balm of understanding.

The modern summit began when Franklin Roosevelt, Joseph Stalin and Winston Churchill met in Tehran in 1943 to discuss war against Germany. It ended with a spate of arms control agreements in the latter days of President Gorbachev.

Vancouver was like one of those Sixties nostalgia parties where everyone puts on the old clothes and plays the music but the feeling cannot be recaptured. Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton did their best to get into the myth of it even taking a "walk in the woods" recalling the famous bus-free stroll during the Geneva talks on intermediate-range nuclear weapons, but the presence of an army of photographers and a gaggle of strategically placed schoolchildren undermined the confidential effect. Summits used to be the climax of

the political year — now they are fitted in between domestic trials. Mr Yeltsin was puffy-eyed after the ravages of the last weeks in Moscow as he waved absently at the small crowds. Mr Clinton bounded around with the friskiness of a Canadian grey squirrel.

World leaders do not like to be done out of anything their predecessors had, which is why we still have summits rather than declaring them more realistically as bilateral meetings. The symbolism of meeting in a third country is largely redundant and vastly expensive. The huge American delegation of more than 500 is a hangover from the old feudal competition in which neither side would appear to meet the other without a suitable retinue. The economy-conscious Russians have scaled down their party to a mere handful of retainers.

The separate and often contradi-

tory briefings which gave journalists the thrill of being the first to know what the world was waiting to hear are now routine press conferences — if they happen at all. The Russians failed to turn up for theirs on Saturday; Mr Yeltsin's press spokesman was too busy to talk to the press and, his replacement said, the Americans had said it all anyway.

The trouble with summits these days is that there is nothing left to disagree about, so that the sight of two leaders shaking hands appears as precisely that rather than a brief and dramatic suspension of hostility. What is it all for? The details could just as well be handled through the normal diplomatic channels and amity emphasised by visits to each other's capitals in the normal diplomatic manner. Indeed, how can there be a superpower summit when one of the powers is there looking for aid to rescue it from disaster?

Devoid of content, we have to be content with kitsch. There seems no end to the stream of summit memorabilia spawned in Vancouver. One sweet shop sported a vast cookie engraved with: "Clinton is just Russian to get here". The menswear departments were offering "diplomatic ties" and Cartier had plunked bottles of vodka among its display of diamonds.

This was a world away from the icy meetings of the past and it would be churlish to bemoan their passing. But it was impossible not to feel a twinge of empathy with the boutique manager who had to reassemble his window display on Saturday morning. He had forgotten that the red flag of the Soviet Union had been replaced with the red, white and blue of Russia. It blends in seamlessly with the flag of the United States of America and ruined his carefully planned contrast.



Stalin: discussed war in Tehran with Churchill

EC ministers prepare to offer Moscow free trade deal

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

IN THE wake of President Clinton's pledge at Vancouver of \$800 million in economic aid for Russia, European Community foreign ministers today will offer the country the distant prospect of free trade with the EC.

At their meeting in Luxembourg, the ministers will attempt to make a prospective "partnership agreement" with the Russian Federation more wide-ranging, although more protectionist member states, such as France, are likely to insist on clauses that safeguard EC markets from a flood of cheap Russian produce.

The ministers will have watched anxiously this week-end's summit between President Yeltsin and Mr Clinton. The EC urgently wanted the United States to boost economic aid to Russia, lest Mr Yeltsin be removed from power in the plebiscite planned for April 25. If the summit is deemed to have been a success, EC ministers can start planning a step-by-step economic rescue package for Russia within the framework of the partnership agreement. They will focus on the help available through the Group of Seven leading industrial nations, who could provide almost £20 billion in aid.

Today the ministers will be preparing for G7 finance and foreign ministers' meeting on for April 14 and 15 in Tokyo. The G7 agenda includes a £4 billion stabilisation fund for the rouble and rescheduling Russia's \$53 billion international debt. Henning Christophersen, the EC finance commissioner, will attend the meeting, the first time the European Commission has been involved in any non-summit G7 talks. Niels Helveg Petersen, the Danish foreign minister, will also attend.

For the moment, the EC is likely to offer nothing sensational to Mr Yeltsin and will make clear today that the days of free trade between the two blocs are a long way off. "Russia will have to lower its level of ambition and the Community will have to envisage a more far-reaching objective than it has so far if an agreement is to be struck," said one EC diplomat.

The Danish presidency may include the partnership agreement on the agenda for the next EC summit in June. The Danes have arranged an East European conference in Copenhagen next week, to strengthen ties with the Baltic states.

While today's meeting was primarily scheduled to deal with the EC's relationship with the emerging market economies of Eastern Europe, Bosnia-Herzegovina was also expected to be discussed. At a meeting of the Western European Union immediately before the foreign ministers' talks, the ten EC countries involved will propose lending the United Nations eight speedboats and 300 armed police to help enforce sanctions against the Serbs on the Danube river.

Sir Leon Brittan, the EC external trade commissioner, was to brief ministers on the trade war with Washington and Alain Juppé, the new French foreign minister, was due to make a statement. The new centre-right coalition in France has threatened to revoke the accord on oilseed subsidies reached between the EC and Washington last year. A worsening of the climate in agricultural trade would severely damage hopes for a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Vancouver summit, page 1



Popular icons: while the real Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton were in Vancouver, Oleg Kandaryuk was doing a thriving trade selling them as Russian dolls, or matryoshka, in the streets around Moscow's Red Square

VANCOUVER NOTEBOOK

Sun warms leaders after damp start

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

Welcome, said Canada's prime minister, Brian Mulroney, to the "lyrical beauty of Vancouver".

As his Ilyushin airliner landed at the city's airport on Saturday morning, President Yeltsin must have wondered what Mr Mulroney was talking about. Vancouver's spectacular Rocky Mountains backdrop and dramatic Pacific foreground were obliterated by dense cloud.

Refusing an umbrella, the Russian leader stood ramrod stiff through two national anthems as the rain lashed down. Then he inspected a guard of honour. Mercifully, the speeches were cut short and a bedraggled Mr Yeltsin hastened across a sodden red carpet to his limousine.

Mr Mulroney was everywhere in evidence. He greeted both Mr Yeltsin and President Clinton on their arrival, met them privately, lunched with them, was photographed with them and appeared intent on turning the weekend into a trilateral summit.

Tactically acknowledging that his unpopularity has made re-election unattainable, Mr Mulroney announced recently that he would be resigning in June. This, as the Vancouver Sun put it, was a "swan song for a lame duck".

The weather chose to reflect Mr Yeltsin's wretched political standing. Sure enough, it brightened considerably for Mr Clinton's arrival a couple of hours later. The two men's first talks really must have gone well for by early afternoon the sun came out — just in time for the carefully prepared photo-opportunities.

The presidents met in MacKenzie House, the cliff-top residence of David Strangway, president of the University of British Columbia, who not only had to vacate his home but also saw the shrubbery cut away by security men and much of his furniture and art collection replaced. Having finally shaken off Mr Mulroney, Bill n' Boris obligingly wandered out of the back door to the garden to be

photographed gazing over Howe Sound, flecked with ferries and sailing boats, to distant mountains. The landscape was marred only by the men in trenchcoats and earphones dotted about.

To emphasise their mandatory friendship, the presidents meandered through dappled woods to the university's museum of anthropology. Various trees had been rearranged for the occasion, including one that had apparently sprouted overnight to obscure a sign for a nudist beach. Looking towards the beach, Mr Yeltsin was overheard to comment: "Koyrev [his foreign minister] likes to go swimming in a swimming pool, but I think this is much better."

The Americans suggested the museum as the summit's venue, but the Russian advance team said no. It was too full of masks, totem poles and other spiritual artefacts for a superstitious man like Mr Yeltsin.

Mr Clinton's other outdoor venture was an early morning, pre-church jog along the sea wall of Vancouver's famous Stanley Park. He survived this despite the young owls which, according to The New York Times, have reputedly attacked other runners, mistaking their bobbing heads and ponytails for squirrels.

Sadly the 2,000 journalists ensconced in Vancouver for the summit were not allowed to join the two men on their amble or Mr Clinton on his run. The media spent most of the summit huddled inside the Vancouver convention centre reading pooled reports of the presidents' activities. Most had glimpsed the figures they were reporting only through darkened glass as their motorcades sliced through the city.

Both men had received 21-gun salutes, but America's status as the only remaining superpower was marked in other ways. Mr Clinton's motorcade was 35 vehicles long. Mr Yeltsin's a mere 33.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Armenian offensive intensifies

Moscow: Armenian forces launched a concerted tank and artillery attack from their Nagorno-Karabakh enclave on surrounding Azerbaijani villages and troops, capturing about 25 villages and killing 150 people (Michael Binyon writes). A new Armenian offensive started yesterday on the southern town of Fozul.

The Azerbaijani defence ministry said that nearly a tenth of Azerbaijan was in enemy hands after Armenians seized the town of Kelbadzhar.

Closure backed

Jerusalem: The Israeli cabinet confirmed the indefinite closure of the occupied West Bank despite a labour shortage. An adviser to the Palestinians, Sari Nusseibeh, urged them to attend the next round of peace talks.

Transkei talks

Johannesburg: Major General Bantu Holomisa, the Transkei leader, had talks with the armed wing of the Pan Africanist Congress to persuade it to stop attacking whites.

Dancers shot

Brussels: A gunman wounded six people outside a dance hall here. Belgian police believe that the attack was directed at the proprietors. (Reuters)

Patten tells Peking he is ready to talk

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

WITH a promise to continue his fight for a greater degree of democratic rule in Hong Kong and a renewed offer to talk to China about his constitutional reforms "at any time, any place", Chris Patten, the colony's governor, yesterday began a two-week visit to London for consultations with John Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary.

Mr Patten told the BBC that he believed Peking would eventually agree to talks about his plans, despite the refusal of the Chinese leadership to address them directly. He added that he was sure a "mutually satisfactory" outcome could be found.

He again emphasised that he could not accept Peking's demand that Hong Kong officials should not be full members of the British negotiating team. He also promised to remain in office until Hong Kong is returned to China's control in 1997.

Despite the bravado of Mr Patten's public statements, however, analysts here say his London visit will be tougher than previously. In his talks with the prime minister and Mr Hurd, also to be attended by Sir Robin McLaren, Britain's ambassador to China, the governor will have to defend himself against a new tendency among senior Foreign Office officials demanding a softening of his position. A report in yesterday's

South China Sunday Morning Post said unnamed senior officials wanted concessions to allow talks with China to resume and believed it was time for Mr Patten to give ground on his insistence for full negotiating status for Hong Kong officials.

Hong Kong sources say, however, that Mr Patten has a strong hand. Also, he can point to a more dovish tone recently from Peking.

Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, is reported to have blocked pressure from hardliners for tougher measures against Britain over the Patten package. Also, Lu Ping, the senior Chinese official for Hong Kong affairs, said last week that he hoped contacts on other aspects of the transition from British to Chinese rule could continue, although he declined to name a specific date for negotiations to resume.

□ Taipei: A four-member delegation from Taiwan's straits exchange foundation, the semi-official body that handles ties with China, left for Peking yesterday to begin laying the ground for an unprecedented meeting in Singapore later this month between Koo Chen-fu, the chairman of the organisation, and Wang Dao-han, head of China's association for relations across the Taiwan strait. (Reuters)

Chinese favours, page 36

Khmer Rouge dinner guests kill UN troops

Murder returns to the menu

FROM SHERI PRASSO IN PHNOM PENH

THREE Khmer Rouge guerrillas spent a pleasant evening dining with United Nations peacekeepers before opening fire at the end of the meal, killing three Bulgarians in what the UN called a "cold-blooded execution".

The murders were reminiscent of Khmer Rouge purges during its years in power between 1975 and 1979, when cadres considered traitors were recalled to the capital for "meetings" and fared with banquets and gifts before being butchered at the end of the meal.

The Khmer Rouge officer who led the attack last week, identified as Major Don, had established good relations with the Bulgarian platoon posted in Kompong Speu province, 43 miles southwest of the capital, said Eric Falt, a UN spokesman. The major arrived with two soldiers who appeared friendly, and all three were invited to dine with the UN party.

"There was total confidence in the friendly nature of their visit," Mr Falt said. Near the end of the meal, Major Don followed one of his men out of the tent, and the two came back with ten accomplices who opened fire with automatic weapons and threw grenades.

They killed three soldiers and injured three — two critically — including the platoon commander. The two

were in intensive care at the air force hospital in Bangkok with head and chest wounds. A third was recovering from a shrapnel wound at a hospital in Phnom Penh.

"No alcohol was consumed," said Mr Falt. Some of the Bulgarians, acting on orders from their sergeant, left the dinner tent to arm themselves when the Khmer Rouge showed the first hostility, he

said. "While these soldiers were getting their weapons, the group remaining inside was attacked in what appears to be a cold-blooded execution." The Bulgarians drove the attackers off, but the Khmer Rouge returned two hours later to resume the assault until Bulgarian reinforcements arrived, Mr Falt said. It is not known if any of the assailants were injured or killed.

The Khmer Rouge also stole \$2,000 (£1,315) in cash and a number of radios and other personal effects. Yasushi Akashi, the head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac), called the attack a "treacherous and cowardly act", stopping short of condemnation.

In Phnom Penh, Hun Sen, the prime minister, proposed that Khieu Samphan, leader of the Khmer Rouge, should be tried for genocide for ordering massacres of ethnic Vietnamese civilians.

Mr Falt said the execution of the peacekeepers and the escalation of violence against UN personnel would not affect Untac's mandate to make contact with various Khmer Rouge units around the country. Contacts between Untac personnel and the Khmer Rouge have not been restricted in any way. "We'll continue to do our job," he said.

The attack was the fourth time in a week that UN peacekeepers have engaged in battle with suspected Khmer Rouge attackers. On March 27, a Bangladeshi became the first soldier to die in hostile action in an attack on his post.

Last Sunday in Kompong Speu, 30 armed men used automatic weapons, mortars and anti-tank guns to attack police officers. No UN personnel were injured, but two Phnom Penh government soldiers were killed. (AFP)



Della Casa: body found after two months

Turk faces trial on film crew deaths

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HASHIM Ciftci, a Turkish guide who led a BBC film crew to their death on a trip into northern Iraq to be tried for murder by Iraqi Kurds. Nick della Casa, his wife Rosanna and Charles Maxwell disappeared while covering the Kurdish rebellion against President Saddam Hussein after the end of the Gulf war.

The bodies of the two men were found in May 1991, two months after their disappearance, but Mrs della Casa is still missing. Ciftci, a Turkish Kurd, faces the death penalty if found guilty at the hearing due in the next six weeks in Arbil, in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

Eleven Kurdish rebels were killed by troops in eastern Ezziqan province at the weekend. Seven soldiers were hurt.

Guzmán is moved to secure cell

BY DAVID ADAMS

PERU'S most dangerous man, Abimael Guzmán, leader of the Shining Path guerrilla group, was transferred at the weekend in a military-style operation to a specially-built maximum security cell where he is to remain until his death.

Guzmán, 58, emerged from his improvised prison on the windswept island of San Lorenzo, for the five-mile sea journey to a jail at the Callao naval base wearing a striped prison suit and a lifejacket. Portly and grey-bearded, he seemed expressionless behind thick glasses as he was placed in a wicker chair inside a cage on the deck of a navy torpedo boat. Accompanying him were 50 heavily-armed soldiers in black balaclavas. A military attack helicopter and six gunboats escorted him. Authorities say his new cell is windowless and built of reinforced concrete.

President Fujimori said: "It's very secure and he will be unable to escape." The constitution rules out the death penalty for civilians. Señor Fujimori, who suspended the constitution last year, had earlier appeared to support executing Guzmán, who was jailed for life last year.

The Shining Path group has terrorised Peru for 12 years with killings and bombings.

Photograph, page 18

Left lie
Rocarc

Support
to desert
over Nat

EC tobacco
focus

Left lies bleeding after Rocard deposes Fabius

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

MICHEL Rocard, the presidential contender and would-be saviour of the French Socialist movement, was left holding the pieces of a shattered party yesterday after seizing power from Laurent Fabius in a bout of blood-letting which bodes ill for the revival of any left-wing force.

The Socialist party, which President Mitterrand rallied around him in 1971 and led to power a decade later, lay in ruins as M Rocard engaged in a slanging match with M Fabius and supporters of Jacques Delors, the European Commission president and a rival in the French presidential stakes, said they would have nothing to do with the new leadership.

Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the former defence minister and leader of the dissident left wing of the party, was expected to resign from it last night. He said the party, as united by M Mitterrand, was now dead. Lionel Jospin, a former party leader and senior Socialist, also withdrew, saying he was retiring from politics.

■ The Socialist showdown bodes ill for the party's revival after its election defeat but could help Jacques Delors' presidential ambitions

Casting himself as a scapegoat, M Fabius, 46, the former prime minister and protégé of M Mitterrand, who took over as party leader last year, fought in vain to escape being ousted by M Rocard at the Saturday meeting, which had been called to draw conclusions from the Socialist's electoral defeat. The session ended by disbanding the "directing committee" and creating a temporary "collegial leadership" headed by M Rocard.

M Fabius said he was the victim of a putsch, and was serving as scapegoat for the wipe-out, in which the party lost all but 67 of its 282 parliamentary seats. "The French people are going to say: 'These Socialists haven't learned anything. They get whipped and a week later they begin tearing each other apart,'" M Fabius said.

"It was arrogance that was defeated at our meeting," M Rocard, 62, said yesterday. He promised to put his presiden-

tial ambitions second to a campaign to revive the party along the lines of the "Big Bang", a coalition of socialists, ecologists and others, which he proposed in February. M Rocard's political prospects are far from strong, given both the manner of his grab for power and the loss of his constituency in the elections. The party will review its future in July.

The Saturday showdown provoked outrage among the "quadrans", the younger former ministers in the Socialist government, including Elisabeth Guigou, Martine Aubry and Segolène Royal. The group supports M Delors as the best figure to preside over a renewal of the party. He has stayed outside the fray both during the elections and the party infighting. The failure of M Rocard could clear the way to a run by M Delors in the 1995 presidential election, which will almost certainly see Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist

leader, as the main conservative candidate.

Behind the feuding, the party must find a formula to recover the loyalty of *le peuple de gauche*, the traditionally left-voting part of the population which put M Mitterrand into power and twice elected Socialist governments. M Chevènement and his group say the Socialists were deserted because they betrayed their classical doctrines and sold out to a free market ideology.

M Rocard believes the party discredited itself through its moral transgressions, turning into an arrogant ruling élite. M Fabius, who came to personify the out-of-touch Socialist aristocracy, sees the defeat as the product of mistakes, electoral weariness and an unfavourable world economy. Opinion polls showed the main reasons for the rejection were the party's failure to curb unemployment and the scandals which engulfed senior figures in the past three years.



In mourning: Queen Sofia of Spain, with King Juan Carlos, weeps at the funeral on Saturday of his father, Don Juan de Borbon y Battenberg, at El Escorial

González poll hopes threatened

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A FINANCIAL scandal is threatening to undermine Felipe González, the Spanish prime minister, and his ruling Socialist party in Spain, where general elections are due this year. Party officials are to meet today to discuss the implications of the scandal, which is drawing comparisons with political corruption in Italy.

The allegations have caused party divisions, with some officials demanding that the politicians involved be dismissed and others saying this would increase pressure on Señor González, who has indicated he would resign if the charges against his party were proved. Reports have alleged that it received almost one billion pesetas (£5.7 million) from companies during the 1989 election campaign, and that some of them won government contracts later. Individual politicians are not thought to have enriched themselves.

The party leadership is under electoral pressure to resolve the affair in the public interest, and inaction is likely to anger voters, especially after allegations over the Socialists and the awarding of contracts at Expo'92 in Seville.

Supporters begin to desert Andreotti over Mafia charge

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALY is disowning Giulio Andreotti, 74, who personified the domination of post-war Italian political life by his Christian Democrat party, in spite of strenuous efforts by remaining supporters to clear his name from charges of collusion with the Mafia.

On Friday Mino Martinazzoli, the Christian Democrat secretary, leapt to defend the life senator by issuing a writ claiming that Signor Andreotti and other accused party bosses were the victims of a conspiracy by Mafia hoods who had become super-

have done exactly the same thing in his place," Signor Sicilari said.

Vittorio Mele, the Palermo chief prosecutor, defended the role played by informants in the battle against violent gangs. "Information from collaborators with justice is precious," he said. Achille Occhetto, the former Communist leader, derided the conspiracy theory as similar to the position of lawyers defending Salvatore Riina, the Mafia "boss of bosses" captured in January.

The charges against Signor Andreotti have threatened to break the Christian Democrats apart. Last week Mario Segni, the main promoter of Italy's electoral reform referendum being held next month, left the party to start a rival Catholic-inspired group.

The Christian Democrats early last month seemed open to proposals from across the spectrum for an "institutional government" headed by Giorgio Napolitano, the parliamentary speaker for the former communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), to replace the moribund administration of Giuliano Amato. But after Signor Andreotti was placed under investigation, Signor Martinazzoli backed away, evidently fearing that the party was so discredited that it would never recover its dominant position if it surrendered power to the PDS.

Signor Andreotti continues to defend himself spiritedly. "Nobody has ever dared to ask me to intervene on behalf of persons linked to crime," he wrote in *L'Espresso* magazine. "If some mafioso had Roman connections, or pretended he had, this does not concern me at all."

Leading article, page 15



Andreotti continues a spirited defence

grasses. But other parties previously allied with the Christian Democrats poured scorn on the conspiracy theory and senior judicial officials insisted they had a duty to investigate Signor Andreotti's alleged links to Cosa Nostra during his seven terms as prime minister.

Bruno Sicilari, the "super-prosecutor" appointed to co-ordinate the battle against the Mafia, praised Giancarlo Caselli, the Palermo prosecutor who, last week, caused a storm throughout Italy when he placed Signor Andreotti under investigation. "I would



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Guzzoni's move to secure left

BY JIM

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Opera as a mother fixation

Are all aria-lovers repressed? Can a "straight" man worship a diva?

Richard Morrison rejects a bid to claim an art form for homosexuals



Chita Rivera: became a magnet for gays



Judy Garland: lives on as an icon for gays



Shirley Bassey: rush to shower flowers on her



Julie Andrews: nanny with a mannish haircut

Opera is a gay art-form. As generalisations go, that one seems particularly unhelpful. The last thing most music-lovers would want is for opera to be hijacked into a kind of sexual ghetto just as it has begun to shed its elitist image. That cheap old smear — "the arts are for pansies and lefties" — has done enough damage in the past.

And most gays, too, would resist the idea that some areas of public life are inherently gay while others are straight. A stable society is an unsegregated one. Division leads to stigma. Stigma leads inexorably to hostility.

So it is disconcerting to find a gay man, and an intelligent one at that — a Yale University English lecturer — claiming opera for the gays in a book published this week. "I want to 'out' opera," writes Wayne Koestenbaum in *The Queen's Throat: Opera, Homosexuality and the Mystery of Desire* (Gay Men's Press, £16.95). His title comes from a line of Walt Whitman ("O throat O trembling throat"), and his intention is apparently to capture Puccini and Verdi for the gay movement just as securely as it has captured Whitman.

Koestenbaum campaigns to "out" opera on several fronts. First, he sets out to prove that opera, being a flamboyant art-form, attracts fans who are themselves repressed, either by nature or by social conventions. Gays are prime examples of the latter, he maintains. "The grandiosity of operatic utterance is a compensation for the listener's silence."

Then he draws together anecdotal evidence of gay men who become infatuated with operatic sopranos, notably Maria Callas. They collect every obscure fact about the diva's life, and hunt out every recording. Some become "stern queenly experts who work at the best record shops". It is, says Koestenbaum, a classic mother-figure fixation. Of his own Callas-worship, he writes: "To demand that I renounce my veneration is to suggest the desirability of erasing what makes me gay."

There is a little truth in this. Most serious record collectors have encountered the "stern queenly experts" who invariably know the month, the year, even the state of the weather



Maria Callas: a classic mother-figure for homosexuals — but does that make opera a gay art?

outside, when some illicit recording of Callas singing at La Scala was made. Yet infatuation is nothing, special to opera. Gay men quite often develop crushes on popular entertainers as well.

The sight of middle-aged, impeccably dressed men rushing forward with bouquets in a Shirley Bassey concert has developed into a ritual. Chita Rivera's recent performances in the current London production of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* became a notable magnet for the gay community. Judy Garland is undoubtedly a posthumous icon.

Koestenbaum himself admits to a youthful infatuation with Julie Andrews, "because she was a nanny in *Mary Poppins* and a governess in *The Sound of Music*, because her haircut was short and mannish, like my mother's."

But straight men and women also develop infatuations with celebrities. One

'With one pernicious book he fuels the vile old prejudices of an earlier generation'

definition of stardom is the ability to be regarded as a friend, even as a lover, in the fantasies of millions of fans. "Show business" is often the business of emotional compensation. And this is far from being exclusively the terrain of "opera queens".

Koestenbaum is also intent on establishing links between listening to opera recordings and being gay. Here we enter the realm of American psycho-babble at its most entertaining. "It's no coincidence," he writes, "that the photograph was invented by men in collaboration". Well, so was Marks and Spencer, but I

don't see much sign of rampant gay culture among the pullovers. He finds it significant that "the two central images adorning the labels of opera records have been the dog and the angel". In case you miss the connection, he spells it out: "Bestial. Celestial."

Naturally, the hole in the middle of LPs reminds him of "the proper and improper functions of orifices". And of course he points out that sexuality, like opera recordings, can be in "stereo" or "mono".

This is ingenious rubbish. Less amusing is Koesten-

baum's final contention: that gays love opera because both homosexuality and opera are doomed. "The subtext of *Traviata* reminds us that pleasure will kill Violetta as surely as in homophobic scenarios of Aids, it has killed gays," he writes. And later: "The funhouse of opera and the funhouse of homosexuality are closed... It is unsavoury to end this book with death. And yet opera offers us nothing else."

That perfectly demonstrates how narrow and ultimately harmful Koestenbaum's view is. To portray opera and homosexuality as being like Tristan and Isolde, united in a love-death, does no favours either to gays or to those in the operatic world who have done so much to revitalise and popularise their art form in the last few years. With one pernicious book, Koestenbaum refuels the vile old prejudices of our parents' generation.

Artists who mirror us



LIBBY PURVES

There are these three caverns. One is faintly painting buffaloes on the wall, the other two contemplating crude scrawls of "MOOF-AG-UGH" and observing pityingly that "Literature's been a little slow taking off...". Pete Williams drew it and it sums up how much cartoonists dislike text. They usually refer slyly to "the words", as other people might talk about putty or grout. Since *Punch* went, they feel even more threatened. Steve Way, editor of the new fortnightly *The Cartoonist*, observes sourly that people are forever asking members of his trade where their ideas come from. "The real question is, where do they go?"

His dream revenge, a whole newspaper with barely half a page's worth of words, came out last week. There was a slightly haughty response from critics, and it is true that the thing has a certain post-revolutionary air of the lunatics

having taken over the asylum. But I cheer for it. Cartooning — particularly the art of the surreal, one-off joke — is a craft which must not be allowed to die, or to shrink to that of a small elite.

Steve Way is prone to dismiss "galleries and tradition and all that" in favour of street values, but history is his best ally. Since last autumn a lot of quiet work has been going on to raise £1.5 million for a National Museum of Cartoon Art, with at its core the Allan Cuthbertson collection. A walk through it is to marvel and prove that cartoonists do something quite unlike. It must be encouraged.

Cuthbertson was a straight man who played with Tommy Cooper, and perhaps recognised in his collecting passion that they were in the same trade as he was: straight men with life as the comedian. From Rowlandson to Bill Tidy, they have the same sense of eternal innocence and outrage in the face of life's comic malice. They capture whole lives in a few strokes: the joke may depend as much on the line of an eyebrow, or the hopeless sag of the subject's trousers as it does on the caption. Even the famous Currier's Egg cartoon hangs on the sheeplike face of the curate. Because of this uni-

versal humanity even their political jokes live strangely long: witness a purple-faced Colonel Blimp, engrossed in his copy of the *Daily Maze* and spluttering: "Gad, Sir Lord Bunk is right! The Government are going over the edge of an abyss and the nation must march solidly behind them!" Sir David Low has been dead nearly 30 years, but I am sure I read that in a leader last week.

The strange thing is how much the cartoons reveal an enduring spirit, from ghoulish 18th-century pictures of drunks to jokes about Zeppelin bombs (which must have appeared just when Britain was most afraid of them), to the observations of the present day.

Cartoons capture lives in the line of an eyebrow

The cartoonist's vision, surrealist and defeatist, is an alternative (and no less true) history of Britain. If they deserve a national museum — which America, Germany, France and Belgium have already — it is because they have taken over the asylum. But I cheer for it. Cartooning — particularly the art of the surreal, one-off joke — is a craft which must not be allowed to die, or to shrink to that of a small elite.

Larry's jelly-like people sum up the national diffidence; Donald McGill our ineradicable conviction that sex is basically a joke (do not all our political and royal sex scandals carry a McGill flavour?); Ken Pyne's suburban couples glare over gates. Bill Tidy's long, mad sagas underline our need to make fantasy out of our history; Frank Dickens gives us the lonely dreams of the clerk; Mark Boxer pinpoints the chattering classes; Poy Simmons the beard-and-lentils liberals. All British life is here.

I hope the museum makes it; but I shall support *The Cartoonist* too. For the future's sake, and in gratitude for leaving the sugary Oscars week with a cruel Neil Bennett fantasy of how it might be if Merchant Ivory remade *King Kong*.

No, I can't describe it. I only do words. They, as any cartoonist will tell you, are not enough.

Where aid is not enough

Kate Alderson talks to the former Chief Medical Officer about the suffering he witnessed in Bosnia

As Chief Medical Officer for eight years, Sir Donald Acheson was the Whitehall mandarin cast in the role of doctor to the nation, warning us about the dangers of soft French cheese and under-cooked hamburgers. But last week he returned from the former Yugoslavia declaring himself "lucky to be alive" after spending nine months in the front line of war.

As special envoy for the World Health Organisation, he was charged with assessing medical and nutritional needs, negotiating supply routes and alerting politicians to the plight of the besieged populations. He hesitantly admits he has been more productive in this work than at any time during his tenure in Whitehall.

"Yes," he sighs, with a slight smile. "I feel I've been useful there. It is possible to get things done."

After his resignation as CMO in 1991, Sir Donald confirmed rumours that he had despaired of ever getting senior cabinet figures to take the threat of Aids seriously,

that he was permanently frustrated at the constraints placed on him by Whitehall's bureaucracy. Today, his charge of intransigence takes him far beyond domestic politics and is levelled at the inability of western governments to stop the killing in Bosnia.

He talks about the "sickening and horrifying" terror being inflicted on the Muslims, visibly frustrated by the mounting death toll and the effects of "ethnic cleansing," for which his organisation can offer only temporary help, however gratefully received.

In words delivered slowly and with pronounced consideration, he asks: "Do you know the quote by Edmund Burke? 'It is necessary only for the good man to do nothing for evil to triumph.' This, it appears, is the *raison d'être* of the man who originally planned to spend only three months as a special envoy.

"We are witnessing a horror in Srebrenica which is at least one degree worse than anything seen so far, namely the starvation and death due to war trauma, without adequate treatment or access to food, of 70,000 people. The military struggle is totally one-sided in this area. Every move so far to bring aid on a sufficient scale has been blocked."

He believes that within the next few days the Muslim enclave will be surrounded by Serbian forces and bombarded from the hills. "Already the people have suffered nine months of shelling and been without food for three weeks. Can you imagine the terror these people are undergoing? The hospital in Srebrenica has fallen apart, all they have to defend themselves are rifles. It had taken months to get the roads open — and now?" He shakes his head.

Four weeks ago he warned

that unless the situation in Srebrenica was relieved "all that would be left for aid organisations to do would be to dig graves." He speaks with great sadness of the suffering he witnessed at first hand during visits to hospitals, bombarded villages and supply centres.

"There are three things which make the situation worse than anything witnessed since the worst excesses of the Nazi regime," he says. "I saw it for myself in the hospitals I visited, including two in Sarajevo and one in Kosovo. Staff, who are working in appalling conditions, told me the hospitals were being deliberately targeted by the Serbs. 'Are you sure?' I asked them. They took me 500 metres beyond the hospital — nowhere else had been shelled. This is not just about bombing a town but driving people out of their homes so the Serbs can occupy."

The crush in Srebrenica on Wednesday, in which nine died as they scrambled for a place on the UN convoy to Tuzla, is "tragic, but diverts Western attention from the



Sir Donald Acheson: hospitals are being deliberately targeted by the Serbs

real problems," he says. "This is not a simple issue of humanitarian aid: dropping food and medical supplies by parachute and helicopter is only a short-term palliative."

"Key politicians, and we all know who they are — around three or four of them in the world — could do something about this crisis, but they don't

give a damn. Organisations such as the United Nations, the EC, Nato, need to bring pressure to bear on the Serb government."

"Colleagues of mine in Bosnia who spend their lives trying to negotiate with the Serbs are broken-hearted because their efforts are not being backed up by politi-

cians, and the Serbs know this.

"People say to me, how can you bring pressure to bear on the Serbs, short of military intervention? Politicians with status could, for example, privately warn the Serbs that unless they stop shelling and 'cleansing' within a week, their telecommunications will be cut off. We need someone to make the sort of gesture Mitterrand made last summer when he brought Sarajevo to the attention of the world. If powerful governments allow something like this to continue, the bell will toll for each one of us."

Sir Donald is reticent about the dangers he personally faced: he does not volunteer information on his six dangerous visits to Sarajevo; that he has been instrumental in ensuring that 380 tons of medical supplies were delivered to Bosnia.

He is convinced his time there has not been wasted but will not return in the near future, planning instead to write a book about the last nine months. But he does have one regret: that he did not visit Srebrenica personally, relying on the reports of his staff. "I was warned that I might be kidnapped if I went there." But he adds: "Maybe I should have gone after all."

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American designers know exactly where they are going, judging by the autumn/winter collections

Making dollars and sense



Fashion
IAN R. WEBB

On the plane to New York, for the last leg of the four-week/four-cities collections mini-marathon, I read the in-flight magazine which suggested taxis as the city's quickest form of transport. There was, however, an additional warning: New York cab drivers may not always know in which direction to go.

Until now, this had been my view of American fashion designers, but as the last show (Donna Karan) ended with the strains of Barbra Streisand singing "I'm in a New York State of Mind", I realised that the United States crew are even more focused than their European counterparts. They make clothes to sell (no matter how high the price tags), yet still manage to push all the right buttons marked "trend".

The spare, pared-down silhouette once again dominates (American designers have gotten over the "grunge/hippy" hiccup of last season), but for autumn/winter '93 touches of costume drama have been added. Whether this appears as poor boy chic or luxe theatrics, the essence of the New York shows is the same: wickedly wearable designs.

Ralph Lauren presented one of his strongest collections

Calvin Klein presented a homage to Hovis country: tweeds, flat caps, braces and boots

to date, combining both elements. Opening with a series of Russian Hussars in astrakhan-edged jackets with frogging down the front, and swagging Cossack coats, he followed with downtown dandy suits. Slim, long-line jackets in sombre tweed and pinstripe were teamed with trousers, waistcoats and collarless shirts.

Accessorising was pure Yentl: his models wore tweedy comrades caps, studious-looking gold wire spectacles, and even carried books — probably filled with Lauren's manifesto. Gypsy girls in swirling paisleys were followed by moody monastic ensembles: black jersey slip dresses slipped over polo necks, chiffon skirts worn with velvet jackets, and delicate lace embroidered with bugle beads.

Women in men's suits walked the runways of Calvin Klein. For his CK range, Klein presented a homage to Hovis country: north of England tweeds, flat caps, braces and boots mixed with the omnipresent white shirt, little sweaters and long, long skirts. Patchwork knits, seams on the outside and leather apron skirts were reminiscent of the Euro-deconstructivists.

Klein's mainline collection was a summer. Almost entirely black, with a hint of moss, plum, navy and oatmeal, it was a master class in understatement. Sweaters poked out under jackets, or grew into dresses of the finest gauzy knit. The appearance of Lauren Hutton on the catwalk (hair simply tied back, face bereft of noticeable make-up) proved that this is a look which can work for all women, not just the waifs and strays. Klein's collection is frighteningly modern (almost punky at times), but still manages to look elegant and refined.

As thrashing guitars screamed their final discordant notes at the Anna Sui show, these were the last two words on my mind. Sui's collection is equally frantic: she dashes baby doll Laura Ashclashes print dresses with key-style print dresses with puffed sleeved Victorian nan-



ABOVE: TODD OLDHAM SPLASHES OUT WITH LAYERS OF COLOUR AND HUMOUR LEFT: CK CALVIN KLEIN OPTS FOR FLAT CAPS AND TWEEDS BELOW: ANNA SUI PLAYS CUTE WITH PRETTY PINNIES RIGHT: MORE FLAT CAPS AND TWEEDY JACKETS, THIS TIME FROM RALPH LAUREN PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS MOORE/ANDREW THOMAS



NEW YORK HOTLINE

A look that hurts

FEATHERS were ruffled when Calvin Klein called up the British team of hairdresser Guido Palau and make-up artist Dick Page to make over his models. Klein had seen their work in a magazine, and flew them over for the week to create their minimalist "London Girl" look just for his show.

Funny business

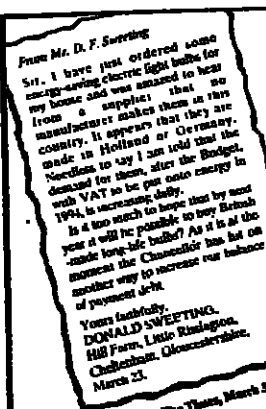
PERSONALITIES screamed for attention at Isaac Mizrahi's show — comedienne Sandra Bernhard and Roseanne Arnold sat in the front row applauding their favourite outfits and calling out to their favourite models. Before the show, Arnold was more concerned with finding out the address of a New York store which caters for cross dressers — "so I can buy all that great transvestite lingerie in a size 46." But Liza Minnelli almost went unnoticed by photographers snapping the Euro-chic brother and sister act, Lucie and Daniel de la Falaise.

On the gender

AMERICANS seem obsessed with gender bending. Every time you turned on the television either singer Boy George or actor Jaye Davidson were being interviewed or discussed. They were in the United States following the success of the British film *The Crying Game*, in which Davidson stars and the Boy sings the title song.

Star material

THE Oscars provided another chance for designers to show off their creations. Miranda Richardson, Susan Sarandon and Sarah Jessica Parker wore Calvin Klein, Barbra Streisand and Glen Close sported Donna Karan, while Andy McDowell chose Ralph Lauren.



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Matthew Parris



■ On the whole, it is better not to tell Madame Butterfly that Pinkerton hasn't the slightest intention of returning

There used to be an elderly gentleman who sat in the central lobby of Parliament for two or three evenings every week. He was known to all who worked there: a courteous man. He had a plan for the reorganisation of the world, and attended at Westminster in case he should be called upon to explain it.

I first made his acquaintance when Mrs Thatcher was leader of the Opposition and I worked for her, dealing with her correspondence from the public. The gentleman was a regular correspondent and had submitted his plan in book form. From time to time he would write with revisions to particular chapters, or to wonder whether Mrs Thatcher had yet had time to comment. Would she care to discuss this with him? He reminded me that, if she would, he could be found in the central lobby. Once he told me he had learnt a whole chapter by heart, in case Mrs Thatcher wanted to discuss the wording with him.

I told him she was grateful for his plan. This was not true. I told him that his willingness to discuss his ideas was also much appreciated. This was not true either. And I told him that, though Mrs Thatcher had not yet found time to implement the plan, it was helpful to have the observations of so assiduous a student of world affairs. That too, was untrue.

I would pass him in the lobby, week after week, waiting, and wonder whether it would be better to tell him that nobody had read his book, or ever would. Should I let him know that his attendance at Westminster was pointless and that Mrs Thatcher took no interest in his work? As a mere secretary, this would have been presumptuous, so I said nothing.

Then I became an MP. I had the standing to take him aside and explain kindly that he was wasting his time. Yet something stopped me. It sounds patronising, but I thought it might be all he was living for.

I never did tell him: any more than the Chief Whip ever did tell me that I was intending to be prime minister. I was wasting my time. After seven years I worked this out for myself and gave up Parliament to try something else. Years later, walking through the central lobby, I noticed that the old man was still there.

To view another human being placing all his enthusiasm and trust in something the viewer knows to be a delusion, is at the same time one of the most pathetic and the most moving experiences. The saddest of all Wilde's stories, *The Birthday of the Infanta*, tells of a little dwarf, mon-

I could have had a lot more fun if I had not seen myself as prime minister in waiting.

University Press. By a lily pond in one of the gardens we encountered a man who I suppose was mad. He was looking at the water with an expression of pure delight. "Do you see those shiny droplets?" he said to Granddad. "They are not water, but diamonds. I am working on a process for turning apparent diamonds into real diamonds. I should be delighted to explain it to you, if you would ask me for tea." He looked down at his frayed trousers. "I have better clothes than this," you know, if you do invite me."

Granddad said it would be a pleasure to ask him for tea, but not this week. Perhaps another time?

The man looked pleased. Going home, I asked Granddad whether he really meant to invite the man for tea, and he said no. Then was it right to give any other impression? To this day, I feel perplexed about it.

In Derbyshire, returning home after lunch yesterday, I walked through Yulegreave village churchyard. A peeling headstone was in loving memory of Ann [surname and parents' name flaked off] died on 5 April 1843, aged 8 weeks. *Touched the Earth and gone to Glory*. It was a sunny spring day. I do not believe Ann went to glory, but to oblivion. But I, who have never lost a child, felt in no way disposed to argue.

Cutting the Church of England's link with the state would empower a different kind of society

Between the cults and a cold place

Surely the present form of church government which the laws of this land have established is such as no law of God nor reason of man hath hitherto been alleged of force sufficient to prove they do ill who to the utmost of their power withstand the alteration thereof. This was the view of Richard Hooker, the Elizabethan cleric who published his *Ecclesiastical Polity* in 1594. It is also the view that George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, argued last week in his article in *Parliament's House Magazine*. Hooker's *Ecclesiastical Polity* was the most powerful, and yet the most moderate, of the early defences of the Church of England: it had an influence on the development of constitutional theory, well outside the ecclesiastical area.

The Archbishop of Canterbury argues from a national, cultural and spiritual point of view. Like the 17th-century Anglicans, including Archbishop Laud, or King Charles I himself, he believes the established church is essential to the monarchy. He would accept the old slogan, "No bishop, no king", and writes: "Without the spiritual dimension, many of our constitutional and symbolic conventions, including kingship, would cease to make sense."

Many Christians would agree with the Archbishop. The establishment of the church prevents the desecration of government. Forms of government which have lost the sense of the sacred are open to two dangers. The greater is that the sacred will be replaced by a spirit of evil, as has frequently happened both in Fascist and Marxist regimes. The lesser danger is that government will simply wither because it has lost its inspiration.

In the last generation, both the British monarchy and the Church of England have been weakened. The monarchy as the focus of national loyalty and the Church of England as a major focus of Christian belief have

inevitably been damaged by the increasing secularisation of our society. If the Church of England were now to be disestablished, that would be a further triumph for this process of secularisation. "Our history is permeated with the Christian religion, which is also in turn reflected in much of our art, literature, and architecture." That is another of the Archbishop's convincing arguments. It is hard to think of English civilisation without the Christian culture, and equally hard to imagine an England without the specifically Anglican contribution.

Yet the Church of England as a Christian church cannot be cheaply concerned with the nation's constitutional culture. In Hooker's terms, those things belong to the reason of man, and religion belongs to man's relationship with God. What any Christian, or any member of another faith, has to ask is whether disestablishment would help bring more people closer to faith. If one puts oneself in a position of a believing Jew, or a Muslim, or a Buddhist, would one want the Church of England to be disestablished on religious grounds? Surely not.

The answer that the Archbishop of Canterbury offers is that "the establishment of the Church of England gives a religious dimension to the public culture. The loss of that dimension would damage the interests of other faiths as well as the Christian churches." Disestablishment would be seen as a retreat, as a sign that the decline of English

Christianity was becoming terminal. Only a few of the lost Christians would be converted to other Christian denominations, or to other religions, though the cults might gain more recruits. Disestablishment would be a defeat of religion as such, for the idea of God, for the concept of the sacred. It would be a victory for a secular and ultimately anti-religious view of society, and of human nature.

Secularism has indeed become

William Rees-Mogg

something like an alternative establishment of religion, one which has succeeded even in the United States, where the establishment of religion is unconstitutional. It has its own cathedrals, such as the Royal Society or the Treasury, where its devout clergy preach the commandments of their secular church, and shape society in its image. It is the most strongly represented communion in both Houses of Parliament, and has far more of its bishops in the House of Lords than does the Church of England. It has its own doctrines, which determine the social culture even of many English Christians.

The basic doctrine is utilitarian. As Jeremy Bentham wrote: "Priestley was the first (unless it was Beccaria)

who taught my lips to pronounce this sacred truth — that the greatest happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of morals and legislation." That is the underlying logic of secularism with all its plausibility and its danger of oppression of minorities — indeed with an inherent lack of protection for minority suffering. It is the moral basis both for abortion and euthanasia. This utilitarianism is often combined with a dogmatic scientism, with the view that the existence of God was disproved by Darwin, or that if God does exist we should not allow Him to interfere with the practical business of life, which can always best be settled in a scientific way, free of metaphysics, mysticism, or even value judgments.

There are countries which have become more completely secularised than Britain. Among our immediate European neighbours, the Netherlands is a noticeably more desecralised society than we are, though probably not in the rural and largely Catholic south. Equally, our society has been much more desecralised than Ireland, though the modern world is catching up even on the Irish. Whichever stage Britain may be thought to have reached, secularism, which has been growing in influence for 300 years, is the real alternative to Christianity.

In such a society, the disestablishment of the Church of England would inevitably strengthen this alternative establishment. If Christians, or members of other faiths, already feel that their society has not

only been robbed of its religious dimension, but has had an anti-religious order imposed upon it, then disestablishment would make the situation worse. Different definitions of church doctrines are not unimportant — we should all try to move as near to the truth as humanity can go — but they are far less significant than the difference between acceptance and rejection of the divine.

Many secularists would argue that the process is inevitable, that religion is only a cosy superstition, or worse than that, that the Church of England is dying because its beliefs have been exploded by science. Yet what is actually happening in the world seems to contradict that. The great age of confidence in a science of politics already belongs to the past. Both Hitler and Stalin thought that they were scientific politicians, and wrote books to prove it. Hitler was a social Darwinist; his racial views were based on the survival of the fittest, which he considered the "Aryans" to be. Stalin was a Marxist-Leninist who believed that historic necessity meant that the Soviet Union would survive and bury the primitive capitalist societies of the West.

Nobody now believes in these applications of science to politics. Science cannot answer everything. Since 1945, and the explosion of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, few have been able to believe in the inevitable benevolence of scientific discovery. At the same time, religion has been winning new converts: Persia is not now ruled by the Shah, who saw a modernist future for his country, but by Islamic fundamentalists. New cults of many kinds, some good, some bad, spring up almost every week. There are two questions for us. Would we prefer an Anglican or a purely secularist establishment? Do we want English Christianity in an advanced ecclesiastical form, or should we accept the civil war between the secularists and the cultists?

A first past the Tories system

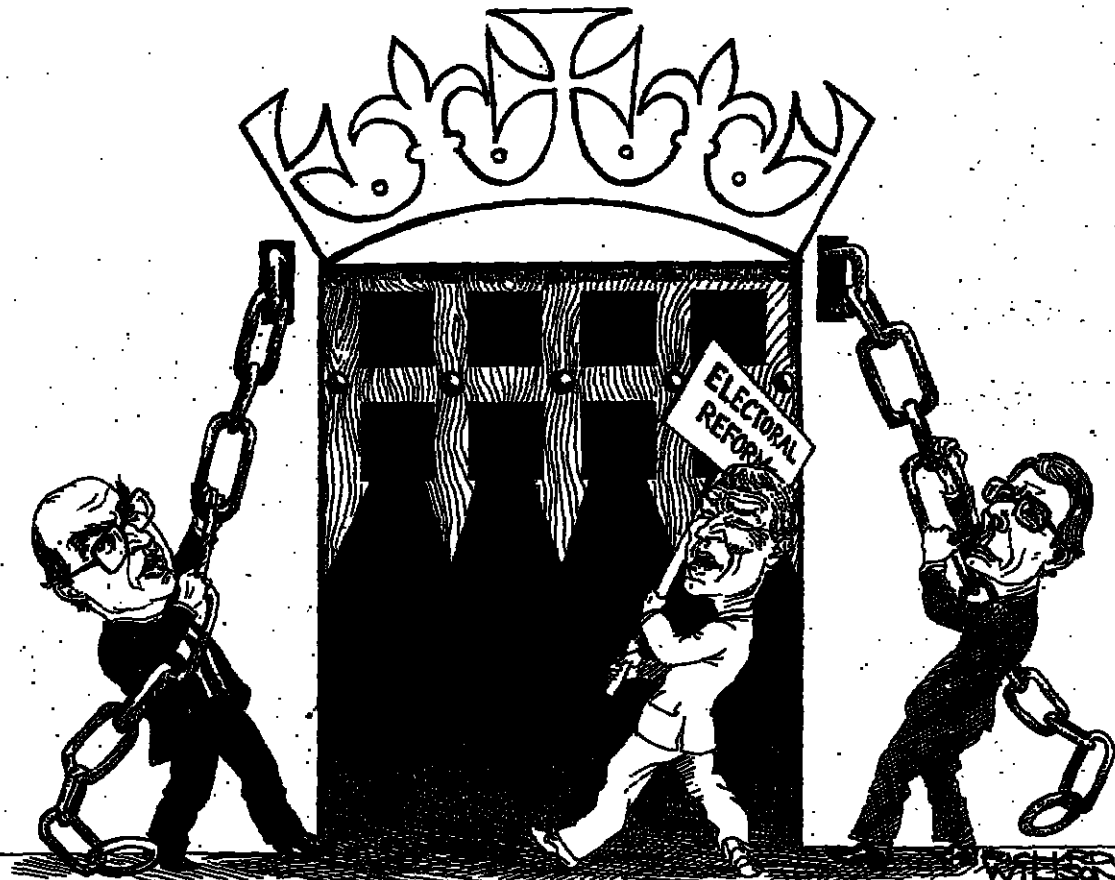
Labour's debate is more about power than about PR, says Peter Riddell

Most ministers believe the Tories will remain in office for the rest of this decade. That assumption, paradoxically, underlies much of the weekend comment about John Major's troubles since winning the election 12 months ago, and is what the Labour debate about electoral reform is really about.

That is why the rejection last week of the first-past-the-post system by Labour's commission under Lord Plant matters. At stake is more than a choice between systems, whose acronyms so excite the enthusiasts. It is about power and whether Labour can win office again on its own.

The British system rests on the belief that the two main parties are equal competitors. Until 1979, the Tories had held office this century, on their own or in coalitions they dominated, for just over 36 years, while the Liberals and then Labour had held office for roughly 30 years. The remaining years consisted of multi-party coalitions. However, since 1979 Labour has only occasionally been a plausible contender for power, while the Liberal Democrats attracted nearly a fifth of the vote even in 1992.

For the Tories, that prospect is fine. The government may have to renew itself via reshuffles, but office has its own internal momentum. Hence the anniversary message is that post-election events — the continuing recession, the coal crisis, and the splits over Maastricht — are just temporary difficulties which are already, or will soon be, behind us. The government has turned the corner, Michael Howard has proclaimed, so now "we can concentrate all our energies on the radical reforming agenda we set out in our manifesto". Despite dis-



CHIDELL ON MONDAY

But there is at least a strong chance that it will not.

The Plant report is central to this argument. If like John Prescott, you believe that Labour can win on its own, there is no need to change. However, such absolutism ignores the possibility of a hung parliament where Labour could hold office with Liberal Democrat support, which would be contingent on support for electoral reform. If, like Robin Cook, you are doubtful about whether Labour can win sufficient seats in southern England for an overall majority, a shift away from the present system is vital.

As with so many other constitutional

questions, we have been here before. Alternatives were discussed before the 1867 and 1884-85 reforms, and particularly during the Speaker's Conference and the debates leading up to the far-reaching electoral changes of 1918. The conference unanimously recommended proportional representation, but this was not accepted by the coalition government.

With both the Liberals and the still small Labour party deeply divided, the Tories had, then as now, "the self-confidence — justifiably as it turned out — that it could compete successfully against the left, even under a regime of universal suffrage", as Vernon Bogdanor writes in his *The People and the Party System*. "The Commons rejected proportional rep-

resentation on no less than five occasions, substituting for it the alternative vote, twice by a majority of only one. The Lords twice reinserted proportional representation into the bill and rejected the alternative vote. In the end, the plurality system was retained, in part by default."

The same could happen again. On each occasion since 1831-32, reform proposals have been much amended. The one sure prediction about the Plant report is that its proposal for supplementary voting (a redistribution of second preferences) will not become law in its current form. Not only is it a compromise (not even favoured by Lord Plant himself) but it is deeply flawed and is a long way from being a proportional system.

The rejection of first-past-the-post is, however, significant because it opens the door to a debate not just about alternative systems but also about Labour's own prospects. John Smith himself is not persuaded of the case for change, but realises the desirability of leaving the door open, to placate Labour supporters of reform, as well as the Liberal Democrats, and to attract potentially sympathetic voters. Mr Smith has been discussing the idea of a referendum on the principle of reform, for the same reason as he opposes one now on the Maastricht treaty: to preserve party unity.

In America, similar frustrations have existed with the long period of one-party dominance by the Democrats in the House of Representatives since 1955 and in the Senate for all but six years of that period. The persistence of the two-party system, in congressional, if not all presidential, elections means there is little support for proportional representation. Instead, term limits, restricting to an average of 12 years the length of service, were approved by voters in a quarter of the states last November.

The growing support for changes in structure is only a symptom of deeper political imbalances. Mr Smith and Labour now have to decide whether these will go away or require a longer-lasting remedy. Meanwhile, the Tories carry on squabbling, and governing.

Hoof in mouth

FOR John Upson, owner and trainer of the much-fancied Zeta's Lad, Grand National weekend has turned into a personal disaster. Not only was there the agony of watching a year's work go to waste, but the comments he made in a post-race TV interview have, to his horror, caused great offence in Ireland.

A furious Upson, who confessed to the BBC's Desmond Lynam that what he said to the stewards was not suitable for repetition on live television, described the organisation of the National as an "absolute disgrace". Unfortunately he continued: "Even in a little backward country like Ireland, and I mean that in the nicest possible way, they have a man in the middle of the track who waves a white flag."

By yesterday, however, it was emerging that there was no nice way to describe Ireland as backward. RTE, the Irish television company which was taking a live feed from the BBC, was flooded with telephone protests. Noel Reid, presenter of RTE Sport,

expressed his astonishment on air and called on Upson to apologise at the Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse on Easter Monday.

Yesterday the owner of the Irish-bred Zeta's Lad wasaghast at the offence he had inadvertently caused. "Everyone who knows me in Ireland knows what I was trying to say. My own view is exactly the opposite." He blames the outburst on the heat of the moment. "Everyone was full of adrenalin."

Back at his Towcester stables, there is no consoling him. Plans to go to Ireland are "now being thought about very carefully". And it was far too soon to talk about next year's National. "Right now the biggest question is whether I'll still be in racing in a year's time."

● Sir Eric Parker, deputy chairman of Trafalgar House, won the 1991 Grand National with Seagram. He hopes to win the 1994 race with Topsham Bay, which runs in the Whitbread Gold Cup at

Sandown. As for the 1993 farce, Sir Eric watched it on TV at his Sussex stud. "It was so upsetting, we had to watch a video of the 1991 race afterwards — just to check the result was still the same."

Through a glass

NO false starts yesterday at the Malt Shovel, the favourite watering hole of Upper Lambourn's racing community. Shortly after coming under starter's orders at midday, there was already a good crowd in, according to landlord Clive Alexander.

"It's always a good session on Sunday morning, whatever

A historic occasion... Dad got some money back from the bookies.



the result," he said. "But I'd have to admit the atmosphere is a bit down-trodden. We're all disappointed and there are some long faces on the lads from Mrs Piman's yard."

Alexander says Lambourn had been looking forward to welcoming home its third winner in four years, following the success of Party Politics last year and Mr Frisk in 1990. "Last year there was as much champagne on the floor as there was in the glasses."

Black books

EVIDENCE, if evidence were needed, of Conrad Black's literary leanings comes in an advertisement for his substantial house in Highgate, north London, which is for sale.

It appears that the Canadian owner of *The Daily Telegraph* added a formidable



library to his home, capable of holding 3,000 books. Afterwards, he built a large conservatory where, presumably, he could leaf through the volumes. Knight Frank & Rutley refuses to link Black to the £1.5 million mansion. But its advertisement makes much of the literary extensions. In which case, one suspects, builders may have already been summoned to Black's new multi-million-pound house in Kensington. Its former owner, the embattled Australian Alan Bond, was better known for his interest in beer and boats than books.

Rhodes repairs

BILL CLINTON has served Oxford well, with the publicity his presidency has accorded the Rhodes scholarship. But some dons think the Ameri-

cans are perhaps benefiting more than they should from the trust set up on Cecil Rhodes's death in 1902. Professor Kenneth Kirkwood of St Antony's College, a former Rhodes professor of race relations, believes more is due to Africans. Africa, after all, is where Rhodes made his pile.

Today he hopes to raise the matter of a new "Rhodes Africa" scholarship at a meeting in London of the African Educational Trust. "It is high time for Britain and the US to develop a system of select leadership scholarships for Africans of a comparable standing to the Rhodes scholarships."

But Sir Richard Southwood, vice-chancellor of Oxford and a Rhodes trustee, is not sure what room for manoeuvre the trust has. "We already have Rhodes scholarships in south Africa, west Africa and east Africa. The numbers in other African countries are not large but the disposition of these scholarships was set out in Rhodes's will. And he very much looked to a different sort of Africa than we have today."

● Over the years the get-away-from-the-officials walk has become a feature of presidential



Campaign cousins: Kinnock and Clinton both suffered

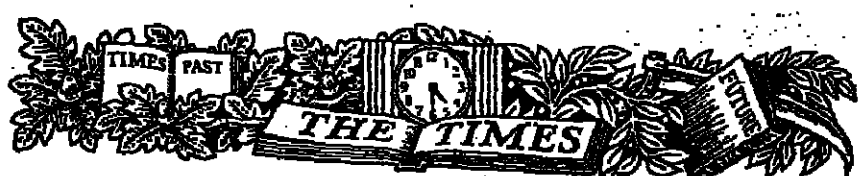


Know just how you felt, darling

Glenys Kinnock has confessed that the Republicans' rough treatment of Hillary Clinton during last year's presidential election campaign did not come as a surprise. The Republicans, after all, were being advised by the Conservatives who, as she points out, had had a lot of practice in distorting the dirt on opponents' wives. "I certainly had a sense of déjà vu," she tells *Good Housekeeping*. Shame it didn't extend to the result.

summits. Vancouver was no exception, with Bill Clinton inviting his Russian counterpart for a walk in the woods of the university campus. So, free of officialdom, and their interpreters, what great matters did the two resolve? A Canadian

sound man appears to have captured the gist. "This is an oak tree. And this is a maple," Clinton tells his Russian counterpart. To each botanical nugget, Yeltsin was heard to reply. "Yes. Yes." The world can sleep easier in its bed.



CALL TO ACCOUNT

Western Europe's leaders are failing their voters and the world

America is again a country confidently led and strengthened by a convincing rapport between government and governed. The Vancouver summit fits into an emerging pattern of American activism born of this new confidence. After a few post-inauguration hiccups, President Clinton won early and impressive support for his domestic agenda. On Bosnia, he still hesitates, but this weekend he set decisively about winning Americans and the world to a new international strategy for helping Russia.

Mr Clinton has invested much political capital in this decision to put America's domestic problems in their broad strategic perspective. He is selling the policy at home with verve and skill. When he turns, as he will this week, to America's traditional European allies for a corresponding response, he is likely to meet with evasive half-answers and pleas that priority must be given to ending recession at home.

Europe's vital interests are at stake in Russia. For Washington, a dilatory or ungenerous response to America's call to action would be evidence of rich Europe's historical propensity to argue while political and social rot festers. The consequences could be grave, not just for democracy in the East but for the Western alliance.

Europe is sick, its politicians seemingly unmindful, even uncaring, of the need for far-sighted strategies to weather the strains of postcommunist transition. The German "anchor" is adrift and scepticism about the *bona fides* of the ruling classes is weakening the foundations of democratic consent and paralysing decision. Grand theories about the end of ideology have only limited uses as explanations for this malaise. The causes of the rift between governing and governed differ from country to country and in each, tend to be precise and practical.

Disaffection with the established parties in Germany, where Helmut Kohl now has the confidence of a mere quarter of voters, can be traced directly to the Chancellor's miscalculation of the psychological and social, as well as the economic, costs of absorbing a bankrupt post-totalitarian society. In France, Italy, the Iberian peninsula and Greece, the tide of Mediterranean social

democracy is in retreat — exposing in Greece, France and now even Spain, an ugly detritus of institutionalised corruption.

Yet the old polarities of left and right have simultaneously lost much of their relevance: above all in Italy, where elections since the war have meant nothing but the same old faces in new jobs and where a newly galvanised electorate is in healthy revolt against corruption and crime. In Spain and France, policy has been socialist in name only, while in Britain John Major's obsession with Maastricht delays the birth of a distinctive post-Thatcher theme for government.

The Maastricht project of European Union veiled much of this institutional malaise, but that veil is being rent by recession and unemployment. Economic mismanagement is the charge against governments of left and right alike and "Europe", far from being the panacea it was said to be during the boom years of the 1980s, seems at best an irrelevance, and more widely to be part of the problem. The policies being pursued by most EC governments are deepening the very recession which, they insist, constrains their ability to take vital decisions, whether on aid for Russia or the Gatt deal which would do more than anything to revive growth. Britain's "betrayal" of its ERM commitments last year is denounced with such heat by politicians in France and Spain precisely because the ERM straitjacket irks industrialists and voters alike. In both countries, "Europe" — and European monetary union in particular — now signify austerity, the destruction of livelihoods and crippling interest rates.

Deep-rooted national anxieties have been aroused by the grand design for European Union: politicians are paying for their presumption in assuming and acting on a consensus that almost nowhere exists. The Maastricht debate has diverted political energies too long. From East and West, the Community's governments are under urgent challenge to shake off introspection, define the EC's contribution to the stability of a continent in flux, and open its borders to trade and its counsels to the wider world. The health of their own democracies demands that they take up the challenge.

HOTHOUSE PLANT

Labour must stop tinkering with inessentials if it wants to win

Like the worst sort of general, Labour tends always to be fighting the battle before last. It took the party two general elections to drop its commitment to unilateral disarmament, self-evidently a crippling electoral handicap. Now Lord Plant's commission on electoral reform has forced on John Smith an internal battle which is irrelevant to Labour's true reforming agenda. It will reinforce public suspicion that Labour will never modernise.

Lord Plant's commission was established two and a half years ago to avoid an awkward manifesto commitment to a speaker's conference or a referendum on electoral reform. Like Banquo's ghost, this issue now returns to haunt the party's leadership. Lord Plant's proposals will satisfy engaged supporters of proportional representation (PR) little more than advocates of the status quo.

Under his suggested "supplementary voting" system, voters express a first and second preference. If a candidate gains 50 per cent or more of the vote, he or she is elected to the constituency seat. If there is no outright winner, the second preference votes of all those placed third and below are shared between the top two candidates.

Such a system would still enable parties with a minority of the overall vote to obtain a substantial parliamentary majority — as it did in France last month: it would not bring the utopian "fairness" after which PR purists hanker. What distinguishes the proposals is their manifest opportunism: the Liberal Democrats are second to Labour in only

eight seats and to the Conservatives in more than 140. It is not hard to deduce the electoral reasoning behind this fudge.

In practice, Lord Plant's proposals — already dismissed by Paddy Ashdown as "milk and water reform" — are unlikely to advance the prospects of a centre-left alliance at the next general election. The Liberal Democrats will not join hands with Labour in return for such a shabby dowry.

Constitutional reformers who present PR as a new and dynamic import to British politics betray their ignorance of a tradition of failed agitation which stretches back to the 1830s. An element of PR was included in Disraeli's 1867 Reform Act — and repealed in 1885 because it gave too much power to the party hierarchy. Churchill himself toyed with the idea. But British voters have shown little interest in systems which they suspect would favour minority parties, spawn unnatural coalitions and weaken government.

Electoral reform might stack the odds in Labour's favour but it is not in itself a vote-winner. As Lord Hailsham has said, the failure of the Liberal Democrats in national politics probably reflects "a healthy distrust in the minds of voters of their faulty analysis of the rival advantages of differing voting systems". Labour's welcome interest in the reform of constitutions — its own and the nation's — should not be eclipsed by a futile battle over the rules of the electoral game. Mr Smith must concentrate on scoring goals, rather than shifting the goal-posts.

NATIONAL LAMPOON

The Aintree fiasco was an avoidable disaster

From the moment that a group of animal rights campaigners stationed themselves in front of Aintree's first fence, the 1993 Grand National was a pageant of incompetence. This was a Somme, not a Dunkirk: not a mythic English defeat from which the vanquished emerged with head held high, but an avoidable disaster which degraded the world's greatest horse race before the world's television cameras. To dispirited Britons, it seemed to portend another *annus horribilis*.

Since the Great Liverpool Steeple Chase moved to Aintree in 1839, the event has thrived on mishap of a more heroic kind. Only two riders completed the course in 1928 when Easter Hero got stuck on the Canal Turn fence, allowing Tipperary Tim to romp home to victory at 100 to 1. In 1967, Foinavon was the only horse to finish at Aintree, the crowd — at similar odds. At Aintree, the crowd cheers loudest for the outsider who rides the last, lonely stretch to glory.

But this year the cocktail of courage, chance and excellence unmixed, John White's National remained unmixable. John White's apparent victory on Esha Ness was declared void after a banal starting error which failed to alert most of the riders to the second false start. His grievance is surely the bitterest. But the bookmaker and Treasury will also count the cost of this humiliating organisational failure which eradicated £75 million in bets and £6 million in betting tax.

The cost to the international credibility of

British racing will be even more severe. To counter the flight of owners such as the Maktoum family to foreign events which are better run and better financed, last month's Budget enabled them to recover 17.5 per cent VAT on bloodstock purchases and on training fees. But Saturday's non-race, televised live in 15 countries, may persuade many foreign owners that tax incentives are inadequate compensation for the arcane and amateurish way in which even the greatest British steeple chase is run.

The Jockey Club enquiry must deliver more than scapegoats. It is ludicrous that the failure of a flag to unfurl can thwart racing's blue ribbon event. At the very least, Aintree should install a clear electronic signalling system for riders and consider introducing starting stalls of the kind used in Australia. Most of the officials who run racing events are retired army officers with a passion for the sport. In its review, the club ought to ask whether a more professional approach to officiating is now required.

The creation of the new British Horse Racing Board should encourage a spirit of change on the turf. But the notoriously old-fashioned and oligarchic Jockey Club will remain responsible for the rules, discipline and integrity of British racing. The disasters of this year's Grand National inspire little faith in its capacity to do so — and should persuade the club that it desperately needs to muck out its own stables.

Community care and unmet needs

From Dr A. J. Vallance-Owen

Sir, Frank Field ("Capping the cost of care", April 1) argues that local authorities need to be told that their responsiveness to the needs of the customer will be carefully monitored. The practical problem is that unmet need may not be recorded by some social services departments because of the unhelpful and confusing advice that has been given by the government.

The BMA, along with 21 other organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors, has proposed a set of national standards for care in the community, one of which is that unmet need must be recorded formally.

It is a matter of great concern to us that no standards for the care of some of the most vulnerable groups in society have been set by the government despite the plethora of charters in other sectors. Indeed, although the parliamentary under-secretary of state for health, Tim Yeo, has agreed in his response to us that the document sets out good practice, he rejects the concept of national standards, arguing that standards should be set by local authorities in relation to their own work.

Ministers say they are going to monitor the implementation of the new arrangements but how can they do so if there are no agreed standards? We hope they will reconsider their decision.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. VALLANCE-OWEN
(Under Secretary),
British Medical Association,
BMA House,
Tavistock Square, WC1.
April 1.

From the Under Secretary of State for the Environment

Sir, Simon Hardwick of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation (letter, April 1) argues that we should exempt residential care homes run by charities from the council tax. It is always difficult to argue against worthy causes, but on this occasion the charities' case has been overstated.

The council tax will be a tax paid by residents, whether directly or through their landlord. There is no reason why some residents should be specially treated simply because their landlord is a charity. Instead we focus help by reference to individuals' needs through the discount and benefit systems.

Registered care and nursing homes will benefit from a number of council tax reliefs including, for many, a 50 per cent discount. Care homes, like other large dwellings, will also benefit from banding arrangements which mean that the bill for the most expensive property in an area is limited to three times that for the cheapest.

These reliefs ensure that the amounts of tax asked of care homes will be modest. Many homes will pay less than £200 in council tax next year thanks to the transitional relief scheme. And even in the longer term the cost of the council tax to a care home owner is likely to be a few tens of pence per resident per week.

This is a small amount compared with care homes' other costs, and represents a very fair payment for the local services — such as policing, fire prevention and environmental services — from which care homes and their residents benefit. April 1 also marked the introduction of care in the community. In that context, it would not be fair if elderly or disabled people living in the community had to pay for local services whilst those in care homes paid nothing.

In short, we have given a lot of council tax help to care homes, but we see no reason to go further and exempt them completely.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN SQUIRE,
Department of the Environment,
2 Marsham Street, SW1.
April 1.

From Rear Admiral C. A. W. Weston

Sir, Local government authorities can now call on the NHS for health services for persons in their care, whether residential or domiciliary, in the same way that any other individual can receive health care. It is widely acknowledged that the change of policy is, in principle, good, but that there will be practical difficulties in implementing it, particularly in the early stages of the change, not least in financial matters.

It is important therefore that the public should know which government department — Health or Environment — is carrying the responsibility for the successful operation of the policy. I have asked the question of senior people in both Wessex regional health authority and my health district, but have yet to have a clear answer.

In the Royal Navy we always like to know whom to court martial if things go wrong!

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES WESTON
(Member, Basingstoke and North Hants Community Health Council),
Westacre, Liphook,
Hampshire.
April 1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Challenging a psychiatrist's view that marriage is dead

From the Bishop of Southampton and Mrs John Perry

Sir, We are so glad that Rabbi Julia Neuberger and Bel Mooney will be challenging Dr Julian Hafner's cynical view of marriage (details, March 31) in the debate on April 21 at the Institute of Education in London.

Surely there are still many couples who, like us, believe that where there is a maturing in love over the years both partners discover that not only sexual but also emotional fulfilment continues to grow. If we only look for what can be got out of marriage we will, of course, be disappointed. It is as we seek to give to the other in love that we receive.

The "lie" of our age is that successful relationships have to be measured by personal gratification and not by mutual self-giving.

We greatly fear for our already fragile society if marriage is "dead" as Dr Hafner would have us believe.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PERRY,
GAY PERRY,
Ham House, The Crescent,
Romsey, Hampshire.
April 1.

From Mrs R. M. Duhs

Sir, The answer to Julian Hafner's question, "Can romantic, passionate love survive the equality of the sexes?" is a resounding "yes".

Sweden has progressed far along the road to true equality. My husband, who is Swedish, has taken time off work to care for our children, and has always encouraged me in every career move.

This has definitely not led to romantic passionless love to vanish. On the contrary, it has nourished it and enriched our life together.

We celebrate our 21st wedding anniversary tomorrow.

Yours faithfully,
ROSALIND M. DUHS,
27 Cloncurry Street, SW6.
March 31.

From Mr Frank C. Brownhill

Sir, As a man who has been happily married for the past 24 years and has six delightful children I feel that although marriage is clearly under severe attack, it is not dead.

The average family is smaller than at any time in the past, as any genealogist knows. In this context, the age of women are being pres-

sured into avoiding children. With the introduction of the pill they have been sold the idea that sex has a value of its own and can be separated from marriage and love. By accepting this concept they have become the slaves of men.

Marriage exists for the protection of the woman and her child. Women will discard it at their peril. Civilisation depends on the respect shown by men towards women and children.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK C. BROWNHILL,
53 Greenfield Drive,
Tonbridge, Kent.
March 31.

From Mrs Ceri Wolfe

Sir, I would like to confirm Julian Hafner's view that a universal maternal instinct is a myth.

I am 40 years old and have never experienced a maternal urge, which I don't believe is a biological imperative but merely largely social conditioning. I have always known motherhood was not for me and fortunately have the self-belief and confidence to withstand the not inconsiderable social flak I have been variously accused of being "selfish", "repressed" and lacking in "normal" feelings, in other words hardly a proper woman at all.

Inexplicably to me, it seems there is a sort of conspiracy among women to provide a vision of childbirth and motherhood as "exclusively pleasant and fulfilling events". If women are socially conditioned (by men?) but then become dissatisfied with the reality they experience, why don't they tell other women and warn them off?

If there are any female *Times* readers who feel pressurised into having a family they don't in their heart of hearts want, I say: Don't do it. I am having quite a nice time and most of the mothers I know are not.

Yours faithfully,
CERI WOLFE,
15 Cerne Abbas, 46 The Avenue,
Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset.
April 2.

From Mr Richard Taylor

Sir, Dr Hafner would have us believe that the idea of a universal maternal instinct is a myth. I suggest that what is really unhelpful to women, who desire to be women and not mini-men is putting about the myth that the maternal instinct is a myth.

Furthermore, if marriage is bad for

a woman's health why is it that most wives outlive their husbands?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD TAYLOR,
106 Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey.
March 31.

From the President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

Sir, The opinion of several hundred psychiatrists that stable marriage is good for the health and wellbeing of both partners and their children is not newsworthy. When a lone psychiatrist claims the opposite, your newspaper chooses to devote several columns to it.

There is a mass of evidence (*British Medical Journal*, 1992, issue 6825, vol 304, pp 457-8) that "relationship breakdown", separation and divorce are associated with worse physical and mental health and even increased mortality.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SIMS, President,
The Royal College of Psychiatrists,
17 Belgrave Square, SW1.
April 1.

From Dr Ann Nurse

Sir, Julian Hafner's assertion that so many wives at home are prone to depression is true, but he has the cause wrong. I was a GP before I became a mother and at one point had three children under two years old, so I know the situation from both points of view. Women at home with their children go suddenly from paid employment to a much harder job with no remuneration. Being a mother is a 24-hour day in a seven-day week and unless you are very lucky there is no respite.

Mothers are not respected by their high-earning former colleagues and often lose their own self-esteem. This and physical exhaustion are the main factors in the depression experienced by young mothers at home and the loss of personal income probably also contributes in many cases.

Julian Hafner is correct: children are expensive to raise, but they will respect and love their parents when they grow up only if their parents earn their respect. If you have children for what you get back from them later you are bound to be disappointed.

Yours sincerely,
ANN NURSE,
79 Sydenham Hill, SE26.
April 1.

Trade with Iran

From Mr Simon Kugler

Sir, Anthony Cavendish (letter, March 30) and Sir Edward Heath, whom he quotes, make the mistake of blaming the victim instead of the criminal. Iran could, at any time, put an end to this miserable story by cancelling the fatwah condemning Salman Rushdie, a British subject living in Britain, to death.

In the meantime we must not contemplate exchanging ambassadors, or loosening the sanctions. If other members of the EC are trading with Iran we must exert diplomatic pressure to stop them.

Yours etc,
SIMON KUGLER,
Sadlers, 15 Cranley Close,
Guildford, Surrey.
March 31.

Police and public

From Dr J. Shackleton Bailey

Sir, The chief constable of West Mercia (letter, March 30) evidently places some store by a public opinion poll that rates one police force higher than another. Doubtless we shall soon have a "Top of the Cops" to guide us when we wander about the counties after dark.

Yours etc,
J. SHACKLETON BAILEY,
The Old Mill, Blockley,
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire.
April 1.

National disaster

From Mr Mark Wharrier

Sir, Should the Chancellor of the Exchequer feel the need to change his career, I suggest he consider being a steward at the next Grand National. Over the past two-and-a-half years he has gained unrivalled experience at dealing with one false start after another.

Yours sincerely,
MARK WHARRIER,
31 Balmoral Close,
Bedlington, Northumberland.
April 3.

From the Reverend Peter Wyld

Sir, Until today I have, I think, never backed more than one horse in the National. Today I was in the company of a keen racing man so I read the papers and had a go. I backed Esha Ness, Cahervillahow and Romney King — the first three actually to pass the post.

I am now preparing for Holy Week by meditating on the tenth commandment, "Thou shalt not covet . . ." You bet.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WYLD,
2 Jubilee Terrace, Oxford.
April 3.

OBITUARIES

GEOFFREY DRAIN

Geoffrey Ayrton Drain, CBE, general secretary of Nalco, 1973-83, has died aged 74. He was born in Preston on November 26, 1918.

FOR many years Geoffrey Drain was the country's best paid trade union official. The National and Local Government Officers' Association was always ahead of its time in believing in rewarding its staff adequately; and when he retired as its general secretary in 1983 Drain was earning the then princely sum of £31,000 a year, double at the time the annual salary of a Member of Parliament.

Paradoxically, it was an MP that Drain had originally wanted to be. He had fought Chippingham against David Eccles as a 31-year-old Labour candidate in 1950 and he went on to serve a term, again in the Labour interest, on Hampstead borough council in the mid-1950s. Nalco, however, was a strictly non-political union — at that stage it was not even affiliated to the TUC — and when he joined it as deputy general secretary in 1958 Drain had to abandon his active political involvement while retaining his touch-line commitment. He had served for some time as local government correspondent of the *New Statesman* and, even in the days of his grandeur, was a loyal adherent at the annual *New Statesman* v. *Tribune* cricket match.

In many ways Drain was a surprise appointment to Nalco. The union in 1958 had only some 250,000 members and its officers, nearly all drawn from the ranks of local government employees, tended to be precise, non-political and unimaginative.

Drain was a contrast. Although he had served immediately after the war as assistant secretary of the Institute of Hospital Administrators, when he was recruited to Nalco he had been for six years in private industry. He had never been a council employee



and his interests were wide and diverse (his academic background was in history and law, in which he held an LLB from London University). A vigorous man, with lines of humour about his eyes, he carried what soon became his vast knowledge of public administration — reflected in his book *The Organisation and Practice of Local Government* (1967) — with a lightness of touch that was entirely new to Nalco's then rather prosaic senior ranks. The union traditionally kept

out of politics and Drain never tried to change that; but, as political issues became more relevant to its changing and expanding role, he was supremely well qualified to handle them.

By the time he retired in 1983, Nalco was the country's fourth largest union, with 800,000 members in the health service, gas, water, power, ports, public transport and a dozen other areas of public employment as well as in local government. Drain refused to accept a narrow role for his union. He favoured TUC

membership (achieved in 1965) and, as deputy general secretary, initiated a number of new developments, including a series of studies of public policy and efforts at bridge-building with other unions and interest groups. Some segments of his own membership — and many outsiders (not least the mandarins in Whitehall) — found all this activity disturbing. The very qualities that made him so stimulating a speaker and teacher sometimes set a pace too fast for those around him.

Drain was the son of a tax inspector and his father's occupation led to his having a peripatetic youth. He went to school in Preston, Bournemouth and finally in Skipton in Yorkshire before going as an undergraduate to Queen Mary College, London. He took a degree in history there before the war, to which he added a law degree when he returned after six years in the Army, mainly spent as a staff captain in the Middle East. He subsequently took the Bar exams and qualified as a barrister.

Although Nalco had many other lawyers on its staff, it was Drain who was generally credited with the detailed alternative to the Industrial Relations Act that the union produced in 1971. With his own political background, he found his feet in the wider forum of the TUC much sooner and more easily than most of his Nalco colleagues. He still, however, had to wait until the retirement in 1973 of his predecessor as general secretary, Walter Anderson, in order to join the general council. When he arrived on it, he was almost immediately recognised as one of its more valuable members. By now he rated in Labour party terms as "a moderate" though he had a Bevanite background — once famously calling for the resignation of Hugh Gaitskell at a meeting of the Hampstead Labour party — in his youth. As general secretary, he faced a

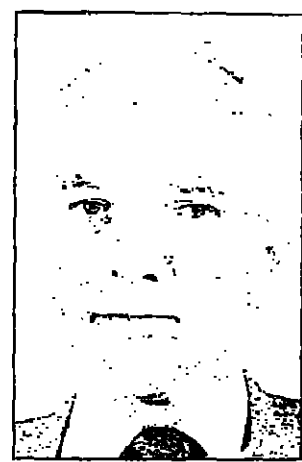
certain amount of radical turbulence within his own union. Nalco's first-ever official strike may have occurred — in Leeds — as late as 1970; but the younger and junior members were becoming restive and resentful towards a command structure within the union that they saw as reflecting the hierarchical patterns at their own work-places. On at least one occasion, involving a dispute at Scottish Gas in 1977, from which he had withdrawn official support, he was howled down and called "a scab" by his own members. The cuts in local expenditure imposed by the new Thatcher government — to say nothing of the early legislative measures designed to clip the unions' wings — did not make his task any easier and it was eventually with some relief that he retired on reaching the age of 65 in 1983. He had been appointed a CBE in 1981.

In a more sympathetic political climate greater use might well have been made of his talents thereafter. But although the Conservative government allowed him to complete his term as a director of the Bank of England, to which he had been appointed by Jim Callaghan, no further offers of public employment were forthcoming (he did, however, serve for five years as a visiting professor at the Imperial College of Science and Technology immediately following his retirement). He would have made a useful member of the House of Lords and a Labour government would almost certainly have put him there. Although he became a keen European — serving as joint treasurer of the European Movement from 1979 to 1983 — he does not appear at any stage to have been tempted to enrol under the banner of the SDP. He died, as he had lived, a member of the Hampstead Labour party.

Drain's marriage was dissolved in 1959 and he is survived by his son.

PROFESSOR FRANK FALLSIDE

Frank Fallside, Professor of Information Engineering, University of Cambridge, since 1983 and Fellow of Trinity Hall, died on March 24 of heart failure aged 61. He was born on January 2, 1932.



FRANK Fallside was one of the leading British authorities in the field of information technology. His unexpected death, when he was still at the height of his powers, has robbed those who worked with him of a respected colleague.

Fallside was educated at George Heriot's School, Edinburgh, and Edinburgh University where he read electrical engineering. He obtained his PhD from the University of Wales in 1958, having spent a short time in industry, and then came to the engineering department at Cambridge, where he spent the rest of his career. He was elected a staff fellow of Trinity Hall in 1962.

He did his early research in cybernetics: on servomechanism and control systems. By the early 1970s he was applying the results to two areas: the control of the water supply network and the analysis and synthesis of human speech by computer. Although they might appear to have nothing in common, what in fact unites these two areas is the use that is made in both of them of such cybernetic concepts as feedback and on-line prediction.

For his work on water distribution, Fallside was awarded the Institution Premium of the Institution of Water Engineers and Scientists in 1980 and elected a fellow of the institution in 1984; he served as a director of the Cambridge Water Company from 1969.

But he was best known for his work in information technology and he played a major role in the enormous expansion that has taken place in the field over the last twenty years. In his research he maintained his interest in the computational analysis and synthesis of speech, and also in the related areas of robotics, vision and geometrical reasoning. As the cybernetics of the 1960s developed into the more broadly based information technology of the 1970s, and as information technology merged with cognitive science and neuroscience in the 1980s, he kept up with new ideas and techniques, familiarising himself with the relevant work in artificial intelligence, computer science, linguistics, neurophysiology, formal logic and psychology.

At Cambridge he was lecturer in engineering, 1961-72, and Reader in electrical engineering, 1972-83, before being appointed to the chair of information engineering in 1983. He developed a specialised interest in the theory of artificial neural networks and built up a large team of researchers to investigate its many applications. At the time of his death, together with colleagues in the department of zoology and the computer laboratory, he was

involved in planning an ambitious research programme directed towards establishing a "bridgehead" between engineering and neurobiology by the computational modelling of a relatively simple (but nonetheless sufficiently complex and biologically well studied) organism: the fruit fly.

The theory of neural networks was to play a central role in this research but the theoretical model was confirmed by neurobiological measurements and experiment. He was also working personally on a theory of language acquisition which, by exploiting the typically cybernetic notion of continuous and corrective on-line feedback, would draw upon and integrate recent work in both the analysis and the synthesis of speech.

The interdisciplinary, post-graduate "conversion" course which Fallside established in 1985, the MPhil in Computer Speech and Language Processing, is unusual in being based in a department of engineering. It accepts students with first degrees in either arts or science and is taught by specialists from many different departments across the university.

Fallside thus helped to make Cambridge one of the major centres of teaching and research in the field of information technology and cognitive science. As an engineer, however, he made sure that, however broadly based the teaching was, student projects were directly linked to perceived industrial and commercial needs.

Besides personally supervising twenty research students, Fallside was editor of *Computer Speech and Language*. He also organised international conferences and sat on several important national and international committees.

When he died, Fallside had been the senior fellow at Trinity Hall for three years. As a professor of the university he could not hold any of the college's major administrative offices. But, subject to these restrictions, he was very much "a college man".

He never lost the accent of Edinburgh even though he spent almost all his adult life south of the border. He was obviously proud to be a Scot — and never more so than when the adult enemies were battling it out at Murrayfield or Twickenham.

He is survived by his wife, Maureen, and two sons and a daughter.

PETER AGOSTINI

Peter Agostini, American sculptor, died in New York on March 27 aged 80. He was born in New York in 1913.

IT WAS difficult to pigeon-hole Peter Agostini. At one end of the spectrum his powerful and long-legged models of horses, many inspired by the Tang Dynasty tomb sculptures found in China, almost leapt from their plinths with sheer energy. At the other, he helped to establish the Pop Art movement of the 1960s by producing plaster casts of beer cans, light bulbs, sausages, egg crates, pillows and balloons.

John Canaday, writing in *The New York Times* in 1964, described him as "a sort of short-order Bernini (who consistently delights me in spite of the fact that I would find it easier to pick him to pieces than to say exactly where the source of this delight lies, a complexity that I regard as an accolade).

Agostini studied at the Leonardo da Vinci School of Art, New York, in 1935 and 1936. After the second world war he studied at the University of Mexico (1948) and the Atelier Fernand Léger, Paris (1949). He worked mainly in plaster over various armatures. He had more than 25 one-man shows devoted to his work in New York, Chicago and Los

Angeles, and his sculptures were included in more than a hundred group shows throughout the world.

But, for all that, he never quite made it into the front rank of American sculptors. Some critics were put off by his ability to switch between the styles of abstract expressionism and traditional modelling. In 1974, the American art critic Hilton Kramer said Agostini was "a puzzle".

"In terms of the talent, energy, imagination and sheer authority he brings to the sculptural medium," he wrote, "he belongs in the first rank. Yet the work he produces, though extremely beautiful and often original in many ways, somehow denies him a place among our major sculptors."

Such criticism did not prevent Agostini's sculptures being purchased by many leading public art collections, including those of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington.

In 1964 he received a Brandeis University Creative Arts Award and exhibited at the São Paulo Biennial. His last solo show, "Horses," was given in New York in 1991.

Peter Agostini is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Helen Lowenthal, OBE, art historian, died on March 30 aged 88. She was born in Belfast on June 21, 1904.

A VICE-PRESIDENT of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies and education officer for the Victoria and Albert Museum, Helen Lowenthal had been interested from her schooldays in the connection between art history and social history. The decorative arts of the 18th century and the background of 18th-century domestic architecture were to become among the chief concerns of her adult life.

Helen Olga Lowenthal was the eldest of the four daughters of John McCaldin Lowenthal and Elsa Ide. She was born in Belfast, where her German-born father was a linen merchant, as was his father before him. Helen Lowenthal was educated at St Felix, Southwood, and then at Bedford College, London, where she graduated in art history and English literature. With a small private income from her father which she confessed she habitually exceeded, Helen Lowenthal then started to teach, an activity for which she seemed to have a natural and wide-ranging aptitude. She undertook post-graduate art-history studies at the fledgling Courtauld Institute and then travelled widely.

At the outbreak of war her command of German and her logical mind brought her to code-breaking in an intelligence section of the Foreign Office. She later worked part-time for Army Education which entailed a prolonged visit to the Middle East.

After the war she worked for the Extra-Mural Department of Cambridge University, where she held the first tutorial post



in art history. But it was as education officer at the Victoria and Albert Museum that Helen Lowenthal's abilities were extended and widely recognised. She built up a practically non-existent department to one which, by 1969 when she retired, had a large staff and covered a wide field. In 1970 she was appointed OBE.

On her first American lecture tour in 1951 she had met Mrs Robert Woods Bliss at Dumbarton Oaks. Mrs Bliss lamented that more Americans, especially those connected with museums, universities and architectural schools, could not have some sort of organised course and tour planned to introduce them to country

houses in Britain, their gardens and great collections. On her return to England, Helen Lowenthal persuaded the National Trust to lend its name to such a venture, and solicited the help of Sir George Trevelyan, Warden of the Adult Education College at Attingham Park, Shropshire. The first school, for 30 American scholars, was held there in July 1952. The three-week school now continues, in its 41st year at West Dean College, Sussex.

Lowenthal directed Attingham until 1976 when she handed over to her co-director, the art-historian Helena Hayward. She continued as president.

In 1965 Lowenthal became involved with the late Patricia Pay's brainchild, the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies, originally aimed at widening interest in the arts among young housewives and mothers, the retired and the elderly. The association was founded on June 26, 1967, at Lowenthal's London home in Elizabeth Street and she was appointed a vice-president.

In a letter to *The Times* of December 2, 1980, Lowenthal drew attention to the impending closure of the National Slide Library at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Her letter rallied support from 75 organisations and the library was re-purchased under the aegis of the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries. It was not a course of action of which the museum's director, Sir Roy Strong approved. Lowenthal was declared "persona non grata in perpetuity" and the V&A promptly withdrew its support from the Attingham Summer School Trust.

Undaunted, Lowenthal continued to work energetically for Attingham, NADFAS and West Dean. She is survived by her three sisters.



Brandon Lee

BRANDON LEE, film actor, died on March 31 aged 28 after a shooting accident on the set of the film *The Crow* in Wilmington, North Carolina. He was born in Oakland, California, in 1965.

Lee was only eight when his famous father, Bruce Lee, died mysteriously of a brain haemorrhage at 32. Almost from the cradle the son was drawn inexorably towards the world of martial arts.

Brandon Lee spent much of his early life in Hong Kong where most of his father's films were made, and grew up speaking Cantonese as well as English. Inheriting his

father's athleticism and his mother's good looks, he was a natural for films, after a troubled high school career during which he spent a good deal of time defending himself against attempts to beat up the son of Bruce Lee.

Like his father, he started his screen career in Hong Kong: the *Legacy of Rage* was a typical kung fu romp, awash with blood. Next, in *Kung Fu: The Movie* (1986), a pilot for a television series which was never made, he played the alienated son of David Carradine. In *Rapid Fire* (1992) he had his first American starring role, as Jake Lo, an art student caught between warring Chinese and Thai

drug gangs, vanquishing his enemies in an orgy of violent self-defence. In *The Crow* he was cast as a rock musician who is murdered and returns

from the dead to exact terrible revenge on his slayers — quoting lugubriously from the works of Edgar Allan Poe as he does so.

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NEWS

US offers \$1.6bn aid to Yeltsin

President Clinton unveiled a \$1.6 billion aid package for Russia at the end of a weekend summit with President Yeltsin during which he lent the Russian leader all the political, economic and moral support at his command. The White House said the package — much greater than expected — was the most it could do to bolster Russia's progress towards democracy with available funds. The aid could start to flow within days. Pages 1, 10

Ministers to change schools law

The government is ready to change the law to require teachers to implement compulsory classroom tests. Ministers will meet today to plan their response to a High Court ruling on Friday that the boycott of national curriculum tests by one teaching union is legal. Pages 1, 7

IRA man captured

Nessan Quinn, the IRA man who shot his way out of Brixton prison in July 1991, was arrested by police at a farmhouse in co. Tipperary yesterday. Page 1

Welshmen held

Three young Welshmen who have been held without trial for 22 months in one of Spain's toughest prisons could remain there for another year unless the Foreign Office intervenes forcefully on their behalf. Welsh Labour MPs say. Pages 1, 8

Fishermen defiant

Channel Islands fishermen will defy French warnings to stay away from Normandy ports today. A flotilla of 12 boats is expected to try to land shellfish at Cherbourg. Page 2

Beach blackspots

Holidaymakers have been advised to avoid bathing at more than 70 British resorts after tests by an environmental group revealed that either water quality or beach hygiene failed to meet basic EC standards. Page 5

Ford price cuts

Ford is ready to intensify the car sales war by cutting hundreds of pounds off its models, including the new Mondeo. Page 5

Retreats go forward

Monastic communities and retreat houses report that hundreds of Christians, a few dozen agnostics and even some atheists will be escaping the pressures of

secular life on a religious retreat over Easter. Page 8

Therapy abuse

Almost a quarter of clinical psychologists say that they have treated patients who have been abused by previous therapists, according to evidence to be given to the British Psychological Society today. Page 8

Serb rejection

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, tried to persuade the world that the peace process was not dead, after the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb parliament voted on Saturday not to accept the Vance-Owen peace plan. Page 9

EC trade offer

After President Clinton's pledge at Vancouver of economic aid for Russia, European Community foreign ministers are to offer Russia the prospect of free trade with the EC. Page 10

Dinner slaughter

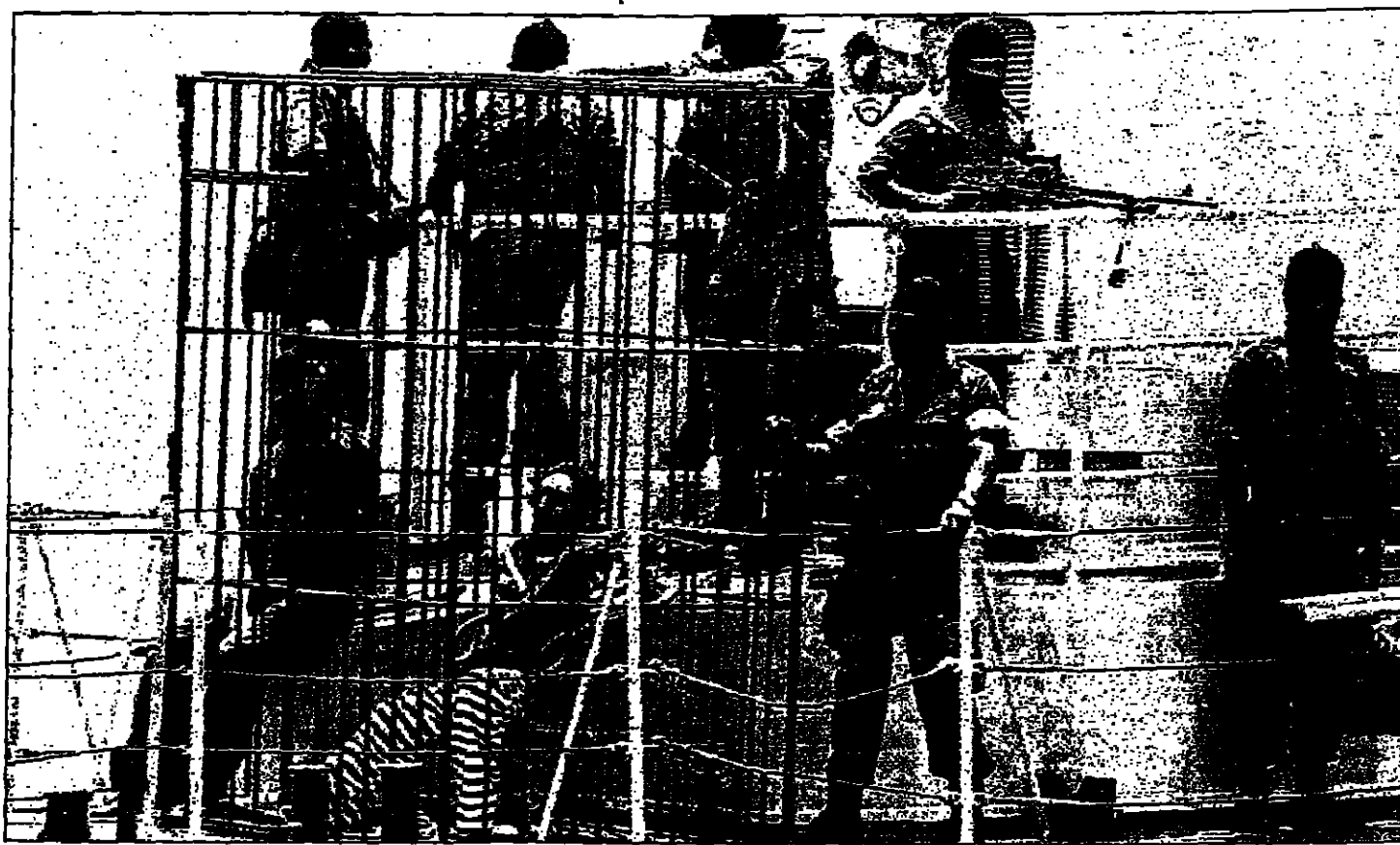
Three Khmer Rouge guerrillas dined pleasantly with United Nations peacekeepers before opening fire at the end of the meal, killing three of their Bulgarian hosts. Page 10

Andreotti disowned

Italy is disowning Giulio Andreotti, the senior Christian Democrat senator, in spite of strenuous efforts by remaining supporters to clear his name from charges of collusion with the Mafia. Page 11

Officials face Aintree blame

Human error, probably by the starter, Captain Keith Brown, and not by the unfortunate £28-a-day flag man, Ken Evans, may have triggered the embarrassing chain of events at Aintree. But the underlying blame rests with racing's rulers, the Jockey Club. It retains too many outdated attitudes, rules and procedures. Pages 1, 3



Caged guerrilla: Abimael Guzman, leader of Peru's Shining Path, is transferred by ship to a top-security jail. Report, page 10

Football: The England fullback

Lee Dixon was sent off as Arsenal beat Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 in the FA Cup semi-final at Wembley. Arsenal will play Sheffield Wednesday in the final on May 15, a month after playing them in the Coca-Cola cup final. Pages 19, 24

Motor racing: Nigel Mansell left

hospital yesterday, nursing more bruises to his pride than body after his 185 mph introduction to the dangers of oval racing. Page 21

Cricket: John Woodcock applauds

match referee Raman Subba Row, who declared the deciding one-day international between West Indies and Pakistan a tie after spectators invaded the pitch. Page 20

ICI shake-up: ICI faces a commercial

revolution in which most of its 19 main businesses may be shed if they fail to meet new performance targets. Page 36

The Baltic Exchange, the City shipping market whose historic building was shattered by an IRA bomb almost a year ago, is to move back home today. Page 36

Compelling interests: The new

European Community competition commissioner is likely to abandon the plans of Sir Leon Brittan to take over the vetting of more mergers — because some countries want to stop competition considerations from interfering with national industrial policies. Page 33

Musical fixation: Is opera a gay art

form? Richard Morrison rejects the proposition, made in a new book, that all aria-lovers are repressed. Such claims, he says, simply refuel the vile prejudices of our parents' generation. Page 12

Dollars and sense: Far from being unsure of where they are going, American fashion designers have their future clearly mapped out: they know how to make wickedly wearable clothes. Page 13

Teething the water: As Britain

moves towards pencil-and-paper tests, America is turning in the opposite direction. Page 31

South Bank showman: Henry

Meyrick Hughes is the new director of exhibitions at the South Bank Centre, committed to raising awareness of contemporary British art. Page 27

Sound of Sondheim: Julie Andrews has returned to Broadway in a revue showcasing the songs of Stephen Sondheim, who is now said to be planning a musical for her. Page 28

Poetry, pictures and Pizzey: R.S.

Thomas's *Collected Poems*, collected conversations with Orson Welles and the latest novel from Erin Pizzey. Page 29

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Grand fiasco

The race that went wrong is on everyone's lips. Woodrow Wyatt, chairman of the Tote, gives his analysis of the Grand National.

Sure-fire winners?

Claims for injuries and drug side-effects are producing varied results. But who really wins in compensation cases: litigants or lawyers?

What to do with the Don

The Royal Ballet grapples with the problems of updating a 19th-century Russian classical version of *Don Quixote*.

TV LISTINGS

Seven years after Chernobyl, some 50,000 children still suffer the side-effects of radiation, reports *World in Action: The Forgotten Children* (ITV, 8.30pm). Page 35

OPINION

Called to account

Western Europe is sick, its politicians seemingly unthinking, even uncaring, of the need for far-sighted strategies. Maastricht has diverted political energies too long. Governments are under urgent challenge to define the EC's contribution to the stability of a continent in flux. The health of their own democracies demands that they take up the challenge. Page 15

Hothouse Plant

Lord Plant's commission on electoral reform has forced on Labour an internal battle irrelevant to its true reforming agenda. It will reinforce public suspicion that Labour will never modernise. Page 15

National lampoon

The Grand National was a pageant of incompetence. This was a Somme, not a Dunkirk: not a mythic English defeat from which the vanquished emerged with head held high, but an avoidable disaster which degraded the world's greatest horse race. Page 15

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Disestablishment of the Church of England would be a defeat of religion, for the idea of God, for the concept of the sacred. It would be a victory for a secular and ultimately anti-religious view of society and of human nature. Page 14

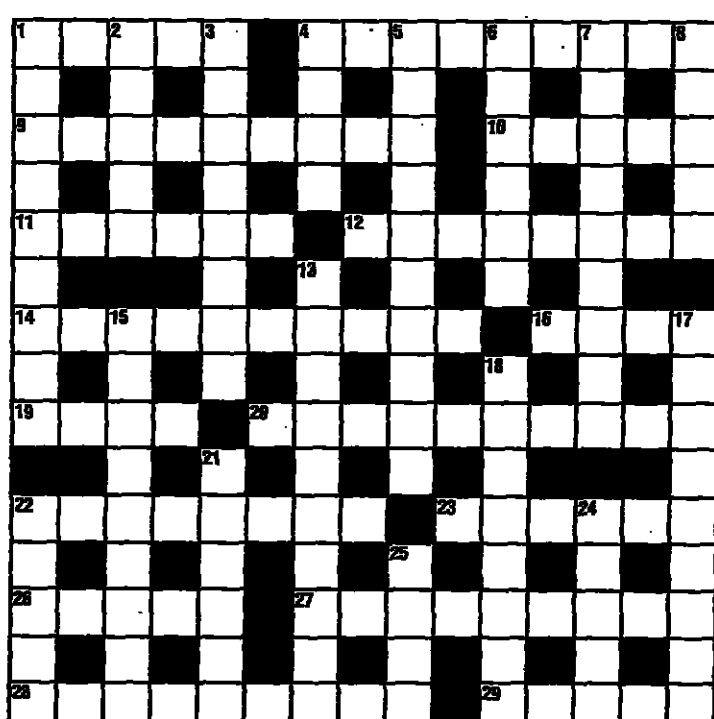
MATTHEW PARRIS

To view another human being placing all his enthusiasm and trust in something the viewer knows to be a delusion is one of the most pathetic and the most moving experiences. Page 14

Is marriage dead? Readers disagree with the view that the institution is past its best. Page 15

An economically prosperous and democratic Russia would open an era of international co-operation, generate trade opportunities and, by paying the way for defence cuts, free billions for civilian investment. But there is another way the West can help Russia that won't cost taxpayers a dime: buy Russian exports. — *The New York Times*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,196



- ACROSS
- 1 Sacked and set alight (5).
 - 2 Not feeling smart at all (9).
 - 3 Servicemen get together to reminisce (9).
 - 4 Approaches mid-morning listeners (5).
 - 5 Do well out of TV hire (6).
 - 6 Mix the company drinks before church (8).
 - 7 Rise to pan a play and cause a rift (10).
 - 8 A prowler has his pride (4).
 - 9 Bearing with a beastly home for the garden (4).
 - 10 He knows how to deal with those who are late! (10).
 - 11 The work of a water-colourist? (8).
 - 12 A stone that is much worn (6).
 - 13 Order one-pound daggers (5).
 - 14 Sit eating scrambled egg (9).
- DOWN
- 1 Anticipation of a street melee (9).
 - 2 One within his rights as a sportsman (5).
 - 3 The giving up of French uniform (8).
 - 4 A chance to tender assistance (4).
 - 5 A heavenly fortune-teller! (10).
 - 6 Anything but common bait (6).
 - 7 Strike the staff as a cause for laughter? (9).
 - 8 Walk this way to become a union member (5).
 - 9 Hold out against a period of conviction (10).
 - 10 Almost everybody is content in bar that's popular (9).
 - 11 Collected RN vessel damaged going round the East (9).
 - 12 Always seen in smart surroundings, being a director (8).
 - 13 Fighting unit in London suburb (6).
 - 14 Reprimand some fellow if he's cold-blooded (5).
 - 15 Hired ruffian's show of boldness, removing a poster (5).
 - 16 River claims two lives (4).

PARKER
DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,195 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker.

Concise Crossword, page 36

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
North-Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon, Dorset & Cornwall	703
Wales, Gloucestershire, Somerset	704
North Devon, Devon	705
North Devon, Devon	706
North Devon, Devon	707
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North Devon, Devon	729
North Devon, Devon	730

Weatherall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Code
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
London (within N & S Circs.)	732
M-ways/roads M1-M11	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.	734
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25	735
M-ways/roads M25-M4	736
M25 London Orbital only	737
National traffic and roadworks	738
National motorways	739
West Country	740
Wales	741
Midlands	742
East Anglia	743
North-west England	744
North-east England	745
Scotland	746
Northern Ireland	747

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

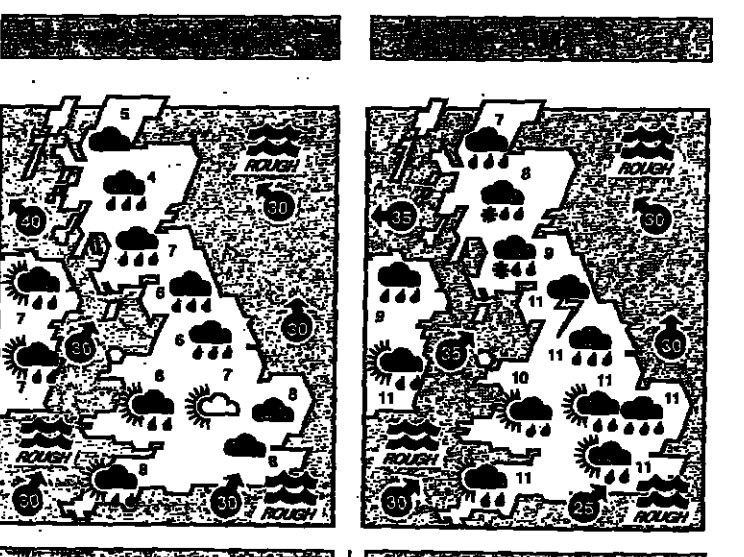
Most parts will start wet and windy. Snow is likely on the Scottish mountains. Brighter showery weather will quickly spread from the west, reaching all but northern Scotland by early afternoon. The showers are likely to be heavy and blustery and may be prolonged, especially in the north. Hail and thunder is possible and there will be gales in many places. Outlook: unsettled with showers or longer periods of rain in most parts.

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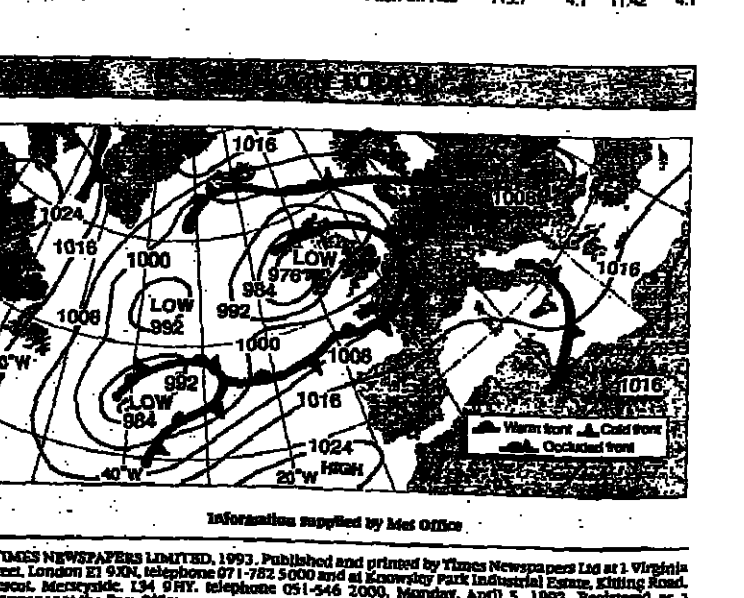
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M-ways/roads M25-M4	736
M25 London Orbital only	737
National traffic and roadworks	738
National motorways	739
West Country	740
Wales	741
Midlands	742
East Anglia	743
North-west England	744
North-east England	745
Scotland	746
Northern Ireland	747



London 8.11 pm to 8.57 am
Brighton 8.20 pm to 8.57 am
Edinburgh 8.22 pm to 8.03 am
Penzance 8.20 pm to 8.50 am

Sun rises: 6.27 am
Sun sets: 7.41 pm
Moon rises: 8.25 pm
Moon sets: 5.22 am

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FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN GUYANA

It had been a very long, very hot day, which began with Pakistan choosing to bat and

SCOREBOARD

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 10-1-50-1; Waqar Younis 10-0-54-1; Alta-ur-Rehman 8-0-39-0; Aamir Nazeer 8-0-28-1; Aamir Sohail 10-1-42-1; Asif Mubeen 4-0-18-0.

Ear to the ground: Josie Horton, left, struggles to escape Kate Howey's grip at Birmingham

BY JOHN GOODBODY

Gordon was losing a contest with Henry Stohr, of Germany, three times the European champion, by a penalty point when he heard Abbotts, of Wolverhampton, encourage Stohr. Gordon shouted at Abbotts, sitting in the stands, to stop and the

Spectators saw the two men being restrained as Gordon continued up the steps with Abbotts behind him. Abbotts declined to comment yesterday.

Gordon said: "This incident follows a build-up over a lot of

The most intriguing final on Saturday was in the lightweight, when Danny Kingstun and Ian Freeman club-

below. Under 66kg: 1 Uchida (Japan) bt
Saiditz (Ger), throw. Under 60kg:
Trautman (Ger) bt N Donaghue (GB), hold.
Women: Over 72kg: S Kappen (Ger) bt
Averbalk (Fin), decision. Under 72kg:
Howey (GB) bt J Horton (GB), decision.
Under 68kg: Y Abie (Japan) bt G Cave
(GB), knockdown. Under 61kg: D-Bel (GB)
bt Y Arad (Isr), decision. Under 56kg: J
Feinbrother (GB) bt D Allan (GB),
decision. Under 52kg: E Summers (GB)
bt M Väthö (Fin), knockdown. Under
48kg: K Nagai (Japan) bt J Heron (GB),
throw.

BOWLS: Desborough, the team title at Egham vs Newton Abbot, by 90-75 in the services of eight of their players. Desborough won the Liberty Trophy final at 22-6 lead after only three ends. Desborough rink skipped by

laidenhead club, took the mixed
sterday, beating Teignbridge.
the final. Teignbridge, denied
top men, required by Devon for
Melton Mowbray, raced into a
nds, but were soon overhauled.
sistible performance from the
y Brett Long, winners by 28-11.

100

GREAT Britain secured the gold medal in pool B of the

Romania led 3-0 after three minutes but Kevin Conway and Ian Cooper pulled Britain back into contention by the first interval. In the second period, Rick Fera scored after 44 seconds and goals then came regularly as Britain eased to a comfortable win. While the schedule worked in Britain's favour, the game against Poland taking place on the first morning with the Poles still tired from a long bus ride, nothing should be taken away from the quality of the British performances.

BASKETBALL: Cleave Lewis hit a three-pointer six seconds

BASKETBALL Cleave Lewis hit a three-pointer six seconds from time to lead Worthing Bears, the Carlisle League champions, to an 82-79 win over Thames Valley Tigers on Saturday. Tigers, who had defeated Worthing twice in the league, lost nine of the first ten points. Nigel Lloyd (25 points) indicated much of the damage but was countered by Colin Irish (27) as Worthing drew level at 35-35 by half-time. Tigers led 79-76 with 50 seconds left, but Irish snuck three free throws and Lewis hit his decisive shot. Guildford Kings beat London Towers 98-81 to secure third place in the league and a play-off with Derby, whose 103-79 defeat by Cheshire Jets was the surprise of the weekend.

MOTOR RACING: Mark Goossens, of Belgium, dominated

MOTOR RACING: Mark Goossens, of Belgium, dominated the second round of the British Formula Three championship at Thruxton yesterday. However, four home drivers finished in the leading six positions, demonstrating the return of British talent to the forefront in the premier national single-seat racing category. Goossens, driving a Reynard-Mugen prepared by West Surrey Racing, led from start to finish. Behind him, Kelvin Burt provided mid-race excitement as he challenged and beat Pedro de la Rosa, of Spain, for second place. Gareth Rees and Steve Arnold were joined in the top six by Warren Hughes, who advanced through the field after starting in 21st place.

ROWING: Peter Haining, of Aurial Kensington, celebrated

ROWING: Peter Haining, of Auriol Kensington, celebrated his 31st birthday on Saturday by winning the Scullers Head. Haining started third in the 490-bolt flotilla but made the most of rough conditions after Hammersmith Bridge to move through to first place by the Putney finish. Ian Watson, of City of Cambridge, rose from 143rd position to second overall, just two seconds behind Haining, winning the Lightweight category in the process.

BOWLS: Desborough, the Maidenhead club, took the mixed

BOWLS: Desborough, the Maidenhead club, took the mixed team title at Egham yesterday, beating Teignbridge. Newton Abbot, by 90-75 in the final. Teignbridge, denied the services of eight of their top men, required by Devon for the Liberty Trophy final at Melton Mowbray, raced into a 22-6 lead after only three ends, but were soon overhauled. Thanks mainly to an irresistible performance from the Desborough rink skipped by Brett Long, winners by 28-1.

APR 8-12
WEMBLEY

Wasps
stay
in title
hunt

CHRISTOPHER JONES

It maintained their aim of winning the Champion Hurdle, a feat that was made more difficult by the fact that the race was run at a slower pace than in previous years. The jockeys, however, were not deterred and the race was a close-run thing. The winner, however, was not the favourite, but a horse named 'The Wasp'.

The Wasp, a three-year-old gelding, was trained by the late Sir Henry Cecil. He was ridden by jockey John Gosden. The Wasp was a dark bay or bay, standing 16.2 hands high, and weighing 11.5 stone. He was a son of the late Sir Henry Cecil's stallion, 'The Wasp'.

The Wasp was a very fast horse, and he was able to outpace all of his rivals. He was a very brave horse, and he was able to take on the best of them. He was a very smart horse, and he was able to learn from his mistakes. He was a very loyal horse, and he was always ready to do his best for his trainer and jockey.

The Wasp was a very popular horse, and he was loved by many people. He was a very brave horse, and he was able to take on the best of them. He was a very smart horse, and he was able to learn from his mistakes. He was a very loyal horse, and he was always ready to do his best for his trainer and jockey.

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Accusations fly as debacle
destroys National dreams

IT TOOK a nine-year-old boy to express the essence of Aintree's mood. While the scale of the debacle reduced many to speechless fury, Thomas Scudamore rushed tearfully to his mother.

"They've shattered all my dreams," he wailed. The Grand National trades in dreams, and always has done. From those who own, train and ride the 40 horses who make it to the race each April, to the millions who have their one bet of the year. On Saturday, the entitlement to dream was denied us by the crash incompetence of an archaic system.

Young Thomas had been watching the jockeys' room television, a privileged perch for what he had convinced himself would be his father's crowning success. Peter Scudamore, champion jockey eight times, has never won the National and now, his best opportunity sabotaged, he probably never will.

Thomas was not alone in his tears. There were countless others for whom Saturday's main event was to have been a fulfilment of months of work and anxiety. All could have coped more easily with the failure of the challenge than with the numbing sense of loss and waste.

Forgotten in the chaos, for instance, were the three coachloads of Slovaks who had undertaken a four-day round trip to support the sporting enterprise of their champion jockey, Chiko Brecka, on Quirinus, the pride of the town of Senica. After this stunning anti-climax, I doubt if they will be back.

The hopelessness of it all affected the involved in varying ways. Some were wild-eyed, trainers looking for

Alan Lee finds mood of resentment hanging over Aintree in wake of lost opportunity for lasting glory

someone or something on which to vent their feelings. Others were bemused, jockeys returning from untold mental exertion to the realisation that it had all been pointless. As the lone woman jockey in the race, Judy Davies earned more, last week, in modelling fees from newspapers than in riding fees. She confessed to being "fed up" with the attention and impatient to get on with the business of bidding to be only the second girl to complete the course. She did not get the chance.

There was Brian Clifford, 21 and wide-eyed about his first National ride, despite the fact that it was on old Tarqogan's Best, such an unreliable character that, in his last 18 races, he had won six and refused in eight. His colourful trainer, Rod Simpson, admitted: "The start is a bit near the stables. I'm scared he won't even jump off." He didn't, but, as it turned out, it was the right time to refuse.

At first, the turmoil of the lost National threatened bloodshed, such was the strength of emotion. But three hours later, in an almost deserted weighing-room, the anger was rationalised. And yet, outside, stewards and course officials were haunted looks, their faces flushed and pinched, while John Buckingham's features were thunderous as he ferried jockeys' tack to his car. Buckingham was the beneficiary of another Aintree sensation as the rider of Foinavon in the notorious 1967 race. Now the jockeys' valet looking forward with a passion to Aintree each year, counted this among the worst days of his life.

Next door, a press conference was laying the blame for a national embarrassment squarely and absurdly on an elderly man who is paid a pittance to stand on the course and wave a red flag. But in the weighing-room, blame was attached far higher by the three jockeys who remained. Each had cause to feel aggrieved and affronted. Carl Llewellyn had won a two-week battle with a broken collarbone to ride last year's winner, Party Politics.

For Richard Dunwoody, the ride on the heavily-backed Wont Be Gone Long had been a chance to expunge the memories of a week which began with his arrest after a drinking binge and continued with gossip about his marriage. Instead, it ended alarmingly with the starting tape wrapped around his neck.

Scudamore had believed like never before that with Captain Dibble, his thirteenth ride in the National, he would achieve his greatest remaining ambition in a career which may end next month. And yet,

as the most respected, articulate and increasingly fearless spokesman for jockeys, he spoke indignantly on an occasion scarred, a sport mocked, rather than from selfish resentment.

"It makes me very angry and there will be more anger to come, because people have not yet come to grips with what has happened," he said. "A year's work has been wasted and our sport has been held up to ridicule before 300 million television viewers."

"I have heard it said that no-one is to blame. That is nonsense. I have heard the starter blamed, and the flagman down the course. That misses the point. It is the Jockey Club who must take the blame because they run racing in this country and they are accountable."

"This season, they have upset the majority of jockeys by replacing our doctor, in whom we all had great faith, and they have had a doping scandal which, by common consent, was mishandled. Now this, the greatest embarrassment racing has ever known."

"Do we need any more compelling evidence for our sport being run by professional people? The Jockey Club are gentlemen amateurs. Perhaps, by their code of honour, some of them should think about resigning. Do you know this has cost the government £7 million in betting tax?"

Llewellyn scoffed. "It's cost me £10,000 win money," he retorted. They laughed together, but it was a hollow sound on an empty evening.

Reports and analysis, pages 1, 3
Leading article and letters, page 15



Post mortem: Graham McCourt, Roc De Prince's rider, and Captain Dibble's jockey, Peter Scudamore, facing camera, discuss Aintree chaos

Morley
Street
beats
brother

FORMER champion hurdler Morley Street put up his annual showpiece to the Grand National with a fifth successive Aintree win. In doing so, he beat his brother, Granville Again, who won this season's Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham last month.

Under a confident ride from Graham Bradley, Morley Street returned to form to win the Martell Aintree Hurdle for the fourth year running. His first success came in a novice hurdle.

Bradley loomed alongside leader Flown at the last, still cantering on Morley Street. The horse has found little off the bridle before, and Bradley was clearly anxious not to hit the front too soon.

But he had to shake up the 6-1 shot as 10-11 favourite Granville Again, switched off the rails by Peter Scudamore, launched his challenge halfway up the run-in. Bradley always appeared to have the situation firmly under control, and Morley Street responded to gain the honours by a length-and-a-half.

The jockey, praised in every quarter for a brilliant performance, said: "That was fabulous. It's a long time since I've ridden a horse as good."

"He is so easy to ride. He doesn't fight, and has all the gears you would ever want. I was desperate to beat Flown by a neck, but then I saw out of the corner of my eye. He gave me some fright."

Victory on
Russki
gives Dare
record

POINT-TO-POINT
BY BRIAN BEZEL

ALISON Dare, who last Saturday equalled Josie Sheppard's 173 winners for women riders in point-to-point, needed only one more to become the all-time leader. Riding Russki at the Harkaway Club meeting, she gained her twelfth success of the season, keeping her level with Joanne Cummings in this year's title race.

Flame O'Frensi, a winner at the South Devon, took over at the top in both the PPOA mares' championship and young horse award with five wins to her credit. This total is only one behind Yahoo, a winner at the same meeting for Bernard Heffernan, for the overall leading horse.

A groin injury sustained when unseated from Shean Deas in the members' at the Harkaway Club, prevented Alistair Crow, currently ahead by three for the men's title, from having further rides but he will be back in the saddle for the busy Easter period.

Only Julian Pritchard, with a double at the Monmouthshire and George Turner, who won on Rathmichael at the South Devon, were able to take advantage of Crow's misfortune. They join Michael Bloom in second place.

After completing the Cheltenham and Aintree Fox-hunters' double on Friday with Double Silk, Ron Treloggen was back to racing between the flags when he resumed his partnership with Brunico at the Monmouthshire. On ground which in two days had changed from firm to heavy, Brunico put up a scintillating performance to win his fifth successive open.

Ruby Flame, who until Saturday had been sharing the lead in the mares' championship, looked beaten when falling at the last in the PPOA race at the Isle of Wight won by the 20-1 chance Station Rank.

This result was in contrast to the Southdown and Eridge meeting where eight of the nine races were won by favourites, of which three were owned by Michael Roberts and ridden by Paul Hacking.

Results, see facing page

RACELINE
RESULTS SERVICE
0891 168 168
ALL COMMUNICATIONS
0891 168 168
SOUTHWELL 101 201 301
KELSO 102 202 302
GREYHOUNDS 122 222 322

2.00 PIPER O'DRUMMOND.	3.30 MAY RUN (nap).
2.30 Eddie Walsh.	4.00 Once Stung.
3.00 Gunmetal Boy.	4.30 Mauldine Cross.
	5.00 Dizzy.

Brian Bezel 3.00 Gunmetal Boy, 4.00 Once Stung.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.00 ONCE STUNG.

2.00 GLENDOYNE HIGHLAND MALT TAMEROSIA SERIES NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: 22.905; 2m 6f 110yds) (5 runners)
1. 19924 PIPER O'DRUMMOND 29 (22.905) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
2. 19925 GLENDOYNE HIGHLAND MALT TAMEROSIA 29 (22.905) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
3. 19926 THE LAUGHING LORD 29 (22.905) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
4. 19927 MASTER MISTRESS 29 (22.905) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
5. 19928 MAULDINE CROSS 29 (22.905) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

1992: 19924 PIPER O'DRUMMOND, 29 (22.905) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

2.30 TIM DOODY CLAIMING HURDLE (22.598; 2m 2f) (14 runners)
1. 40-531 DELPHOBE 29 (22.598) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
2. 40-532 EDIE WALSHE 29 (22.598) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
3. 40-533 RED TEMPLAR 29 (22.598) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
4. 40-534 BALLYVAUGHAN 29 (22.598) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
5. 40-535 CASUAL PACE 29 (22.598) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

1992: 40-531 DELPHOBE, 29 (22.598) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

3.00 HORSE AND HOUND BUCKLECH MAIDEN HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 22.138; 3m 1f) (11 runners)
1. 19929 GUNMETAL BOY 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
2. 19930 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
3. 19931 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
4. 19932 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
5. 19933 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

1992: 19929 GUNMETAL BOY, 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

3.30 HORSE AND HOUND BUCKLECH MAIDEN HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 22.138; 3m 1f) (11 runners)
1. 19934 GUNMETAL BOY 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
2. 19935 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
3. 19936 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
4. 19937 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
5. 19938 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

1992: 19934 GUNMETAL BOY, 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

3.30 HORSE AND HOUND BUCKLECH MAIDEN HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 22.138; 3m 1f) (11 runners)
1. 19939 GUNMETAL BOY 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
2. 19940 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
3. 19941 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
4. 19942 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
5. 19943 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

1992: 19939 GUNMETAL BOY, 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

3.30 HORSE AND HOUND BUCKLECH MAIDEN HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 22.138; 3m 1f) (11 runners)
1. 19944 GUNMETAL BOY 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
2. 19945 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
3. 19946 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
4. 19947 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
5. 19948 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

1992: 19944 GUNMETAL BOY, 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

3.30 HORSE AND HOUND BUCKLECH MAIDEN HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 22.138; 3m 1f) (11 runners)
1. 19949 GUNMETAL BOY 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
2. 19950 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
3. 19951 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
4. 19952 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
5. 19953 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.138) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

3.30 SHAW DESIGN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (22.850; 2m 6f 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 19954 GUNMETAL BOY 29 (22.850) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
2. 19955 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.850) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
3. 19956 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.850) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
4. 19957 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.850) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
5. 19958 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.850) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

1992: 19954 GUNMETAL BOY, 29 (22.850) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

4.00 SCOTTISH CHAMPION HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 22.431; 3m 1f) (6 runners)
1. 19959 GUNMETAL BOY 29 (22.431) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
2. 19960 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.431) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
3. 19961 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.431) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
4. 19962 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.431) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
5. 19963 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.431) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

1992: 19959 GUNMETAL BOY, 29 (22.431) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

4.30 CHALL BRYSON HUNTER CHASE (23.127; 2m 1f) (6 runners)
1. 19964 GUNMETAL BOY 29 (23.127) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
2. 19965 JORDANVILLE 29 (23.127) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
3. 19966 JORDANVILLE 29 (23.127) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
4. 19967 JORDANVILLE 29 (23.127) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
5. 19968 JORDANVILLE 29 (23.127) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

1992: 19964 GUNMETAL BOY, 29 (23.127) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

4.30 CHALL BRYSON HUNTER CHASE (23.127; 2m 1f) (6 runners)
1. 19969 GUNMETAL BOY 29 (23.127) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
2. 19970 JORDANVILLE 29 (23.127) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
3. 19971 JORDANVILLE 29 (23.127) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
4. 19972 JORDANVILLE 29 (23.127) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
5. 19973 JORDANVILLE 29 (23.127) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

1992: 19969 GUNMETAL BOY, 29 (23.127) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

5.00 TENMENT QUINCH HUNTER CHASE (22.710; 2m 1f) (7 runners)
1. 19974 GUNMETAL BOY 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
2. 19975 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
3. 19976 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
4. 19977 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
5. 19978 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

1992: 19974 GUNMETAL BOY, 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

5.00 TENMENT QUINCH HUNTER CHASE (22.710; 2m 1f) (7 runners)
1. 19979 GUNMETAL BOY 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
2. 19980 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
3. 19981 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
4. 19982 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
5. 19983 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

1992: 19979 GUNMETAL BOY, 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

5.00 TENMENT QUINCH HUNTER CHASE (22.710; 2m 1f) (7 runners)
1. 19984 GUNMETAL BOY 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
2. 19985 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
3. 19986 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
4. 19987 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
5. 19988 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

1992: 19984 GUNMETAL BOY, 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

5.00 TENMENT QUINCH HUNTER CHASE (22.710; 2m 1f) (7 runners)
1. 19989 GUNMETAL BOY 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
2. 19990 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
3. 19991 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
4. 19992 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84
5. 19993 JORDANVILLE 29 (22.710) (M) S. Bezel 7-11-10. A. Morrison 84

3.45 CROCUS MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: 23.231; 1m 4f) (4)
1. 45-0 ARC BRIGHT 11 R. Haffenden 9-0. W. Ryan 1
2. 45-1 CARYS WITNESS 227 P. Cole 9-0. A. Morris 2
3. 45-2 LINDA WITNESS 174 M. Bell 8-7. J. Stanger 3
4. 45-3 FREE DANCER 4 R. Buchanan 8-7. N. Adams 4

Even Lord Mirog, 4-Car's Witness, 5-1 Arc Bright, 10-1 Free Dancer.

4.15 BLUEBELL SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: 22.070; 1m 4f) (5)
1. 45-4 BAZZA 217 D. Loder 8-12. L. Dettol 4
2. 45-5 GROOMING MILE 7 P. S. Morris 8-7. O. Potts 5
3. 45-6 CRYSTAL 218 D. Loder 8-9. J. Stanger 6
4. 45-7 SOCIETY LOVER 1 M. Bell 8-7. J. Stanger 7
5. 45-8 STYLISH 218 D. Loder 8-7. J. Stanger 8

4-4 Dancer, 4-5 Crystal, 4-6 Grooming Mile, 4-7 Stylish, 4-8 Society Lover.

2.45 TRILLIUM CLAIMING GUARANTEED SWEETSTAKES (3-Y-O: 22.243; 7f) (5)		(3-Y-O: 22.044) 1 2415 KINGSIDE 2 223 SPANISH
41-53 MASTER BLAZE 4 (R)WY W O'Sman 9-3 2 06-5 HENRY ROADS 17 A (C)C Tandy 8-9 3 8-6 ACHY BROOK 175 A (C)C Hester 8-9 4 00-0 FARMSTEAD 5 S (C)C S Moore 8-8 5 10-45 FOREMSTER GLOW 7 S (W)W W Woods 1	5 35-1 CERTAIN WY 5-2 6 5362 SCOFFER 7 4-4 CERTAIN WY 5-2 8 5365 PERMISTON	3 35-1 CERTAIN WY 5-2 4 5362 SCOFFER 5 4-4 CERTAIN WY 5-2 6 5365 PERMISTON
4-5 Master Blaze, 3-1 Irish Roads, 7-1 Farmstead, 12-1 Ezzam Glow, 15-1 Achy Brook.		

Semi-final produces contrast between Wednesday's class and United's resilience

Double bill quenches public thirst

Simon Barnes reflects on the unique experience of Wembley Semis Weekend



When is it all going to end? The weekend has given us a new (to us) sporting event to intrigue, with the IndyCar racing in Phoenix. It has given us an extraordinary twist to one of the most ancient of sporting events, with the stop-the-presses Grand National disaster. And it has given us, for the first time, the Wembley Semis Weekend. And still the public is not satiated.

Every year, we have new major sporting events — the World Cup rugby sevens next weekend is just the most recent example — and every year, the old, established events grow larger than before. Those that manage to get started, anyway.

Every year, I wait for the bubble to burst every year, it fails to pop. The more sport tries to cater for the public appetite, the more the appetite increases. We have always had FA Cup semi-finals, of course, but they have just been football matches. This year, we have, for the first time, Semis Weekend.

It involved a double dose of Wembley, a left-and-right with a game on Saturday and another on Sunday. It was loved by television, by paying supporters and by the actual players. Is the Wembley Semis Weekend to become an immovable tradition in the sporting calendar?

If you are going to have the Antagloss Trophy at Wembley, you might as well have the two second-biggest games of the season there as well. The policy of maintaining Wembley's scarcity value has been well and truly ditched. And the public seems to demand it.

There seems no end to the public appetite for sport. The FA Cup final has always been a Great Event. Have they succeeded in changing the match in pain with a sore foot, had the presence of mind and true competitive spirit to walk to the far end of the field, raise his hands above his head and applaud the opposing spectators. A day of joy, indeed.

Sheffield United: A Kelly, K. Gage, D. Whitehouse, J. Gannon, B. Gage, J. R. Houghton, F. Carr, M. Ward, M. Lush, A. Carr, B. Deane, G. Hodgson (sub: J. Houghton).
Sheffield Wednesday: C. Woods, R. Nelson, A. Worthington, C. Palmer, J. Harte, V. Anderson, D. Wilson, C. Waddell, J. Sheehan (sub: G. Hyde).
Referee: K. Morton.

and freezing the minds of the players.

Occasionally, such an atmosphere inflames and inspires every player involved in the occasion, and that tends to provide the greatest moments in sport. But if you seek a satisfying battle, semi-finals — in any sport — are far more reliable.

I made my trip to Wembley on Saturday and that gave me the all-Sheffield derby match that began with a crash and roar and about a million balloons. The old place was filled with the kind of full-hearted atmosphere that always seems to be lacking at the final.

There is no mystery as to why, Trevor Francis, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, said that his club's supporters got 35,000 tickets for the match. For the final, they will get 22,000. The Semis Weekend could become a kind of People's Final.

Football fans make for a jollier atmosphere than guests and dignitaries (one mustn't call them hangers-on). Still, if the hangers-on who will fill Wembley at the final do half as well as the fans on Saturday, they will have seen quite a game. Saturday gave us a typical semi: that always means a satisfying game.

We had a classic of overwhelming but impotent attack against desperate defence. Luck and the Sheffield United goalkeeper, Kelly, almost, but not quite, stole the day.

"Some of my players looked a bit like the United manager, said, hitting this unusual footballing word with immense emphasis. "I don't mean they turned it in or nothing — but they looked a bit like the United manager."

Basset's rejected suggestions that his side would have done better at a different, less traditionally awe-inspiring stadium. "Right venue, right occasion," Basset said. "Fans get the tickets instead of the hangers-on. Nice day. Shame about the result."

The result for football is yet more sporting meat, yet another Great Event, to fling to the ever-more-ravenous sporting public carnivores whose appetite increases with every meal.



Making a point: Waddie celebrates his goal from a spectacular free kick, scored after just 62 seconds, in the all-Sheffield FA Cup semi-final at Wembley on Saturday

Waddie weaves his magical spell

The Sheffield semi-final proved, by a short head, that class combined with persistence will win over a sustained and spirited display of sheer competitive resilience. It was dominated for half an hour by the performer who, in Marseille, they called "Merlin". Chris Waddie's skills, his craft, made this the most one-sided first half seen in a game of this magnitude at Wembley.

But thank heavens it was at Wembley. This is April, the month of Hillsborough, and with that in mind it was wonderful to see the joy and impeccable celebration that both halves of Sheffield brought to this FA Cup semi-final.

The goal by Waddie, after only 62 seconds, was a measure not merely of the stunning accuracy he can generate from his left foot but the built of the goalkeeper, Kelly, who formed an impenetrable wall, was

beaten on his near post and thereafter had to perform out of his skin to become, despite his error, Sheffield's most defiant man of the match.

Yet in that first half, he would not have been left with a prayer had Waddie's prompts brought more than two shots against the woodwork by Warhurst. Waddie, meandering across a field strewn with the remnants of red, yellow and blue balloons, was the personification of skilful expression at the height of performance.

"Waddie for England!" his supporters chanted as he drifted past one, two tacklers, waiting a foot over the ball like a wand, rolling audacious passes so close to defenders that he mesmerised them into error. Whether Graham Taylor, the England manager, is wrong continually to ignore such talent begs the question of whether Waddie, at 32, has



Wembley witnesses a city's joy and celebration. Rob Hughes, football correspondent, reports

the stamina and willingness to perform in such hostile venues as Izmir for the full 90 minutes.

After half-time, the magician became a disappearing act and, with it, Wednesday lost much of their rhythm, clarity and surprise. Waddie, brought back from the south of France by Trevor Francis, is at that age when experience and freedom gels. He has the courage to ignore not only the one or two spiteful challenges that came his way from Glyn Hodges but also the booing from the United fans that was the one blot on the afternoon.

Boo Barnes and he diminishes, too Waddie and he enters. And Francis might

soon be persuading us all to consider him high on the list of successors, eventually, to Taylor. Not only has he played at the level of Waddie, he has the eye and daring to experiment with players.

On Saturday, Warhurst, who might have had a hat-trick, looked anything but a player converted from centre back to striker.

It is instinct for getting into scoring positions, his unhesitant shots, were unblockable. With his speed at losing markers, he surely has a future in that area of the field.

Without Warhurst, as well as Pearson and Shittif in

central defence, the young Wednesday manager again had to call on versatility. He used Carlton Palmer as a stop-gap and the England midfielder player's long legs, his tenacity of mind, admirably made up for his inexperience at the back.

The one time Wednesday were caught napping, it was Waddie, of all people, hanging back with a sense of responsibility but little awareness of time and space in his own penalty area, who was to blame.

But United deserved this moment of penetration. Their financial resources are so slender that Franz Carr, the man who took advantage, is only on loan from Newcastle United.

Carr had staunchly held off Harkes in the tackle and, with a delightful stroke of the ball, beat the offside trap for Cork, looking like Old Father Time, to score the goal that, improb-

ably, took this game into extra time. But Wednesday's pressure mounted like a vice gripping the temples; tighter and tighter it squeezed.

Kelly deflected until the 107th minute when, from a Harkes corner, Bright was given the freedom of the six-yard box to head his winner.

It all ended with a marvellous throwback to sporting times. Palmer, despite playing the match in pain with a sore foot, had the presence of mind and true competitive spirit to walk to the far end of the field, raise his hands above his head and applaud the opposing spectators. A day of joy, indeed.

Sheffield United: A Kelly, K. Gage, D. Whitehouse, J. Gannon, B. Gage, J. R. Houghton, F. Carr, M. Ward, M. Lush, A. Carr, B. Deane, G. Hodgson (sub: J. Houghton).
Sheffield Wednesday: C. Woods, R. Nelson, A. Worthington, C. Palmer, J. Harte, V. Anderson, D. Wilson, C. Waddell, J. Sheehan (sub: G. Hyde).
Referee: K. Morton.

FA Challenge Cup

Semi-finals
Sheff Utd 1-0 Sheff Wed
Waddie 1 goal 107'

(after extra time)

Yesterday
Arsenal 0-1 Tottenham
Adams 79'

(both at Wembley)

FA Premier League

Blackburn 0-4 Liverpool
Nevill 12', Hargreaves 15', Galloway 41', Wilson 55'

Chelsea 0-4 Manchester Utd
Dawson 20', Spencer 31', Hargreaves 32', Sheff 70'

Coventry 0-2 Southampton
Quinn 10', Williams 10'

Cardiff 0-1 QPR
Bentley 69'

Man City 0-3 Ipswich
Nevill 12', Hargreaves 15', Galloway 41', Wilson 55'

Oldham 0-3 Wimbledon
Peters 10', Galloway 15', Hargreaves 32', Sheff 70'

Yesterday
Nottingham 0-2 Aston Villa
McGill 65'

Reading 0-1 Tottenham
Adams 79'

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(after extra time)

Yesterday
Arsenal 0-1 Tottenham
Adams 79'

(both at Wembley)

Barclays League

First division
Barnsley 0-1 West Ham
Barnsley 0-1 West Ham

Blackpool 0-1 Plymouth
Blackpool 0-1 Plymouth

Cardiff 0-1 QPR
Cardiff 0-1 QPR

Coventry 0-2 Southampton
Coventry 0-2 Southampton

Derby 0-1 Sheffield Utd
Derby 0-1 Sheffield Utd

Doncaster 0-1 Sheffield Wed
Doncaster 0-1 Sheffield Wed

Exeter 0-1 Exeter City
Exeter 0-1 Exeter City

Grimsby 0-1 Grimsby Town
Grimsby 0-1 Grimsby Town

Leeds 0-1 Leeds Utd
Leeds 0-1 Leeds Utd

Lincoln 0-1 Lincoln City
Lincoln 0-1 Lincoln City

Millwall 0-1 Millwall
Millwall 0-1 Millwall

Northampton 0-1 Northampton
Northampton 0-1 Northampton

Oldham 0-3 Wimbledon
Oldham 0-3 Wimbledon

Reading 0-1 Tottenham
Reading 0-1 Tottenham

Sheff Utd 1-0 Sheff Wed
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Second division

Blackpool 0-1 Plymouth
Blackpool 0-1 Plymouth

Cardiff 0-1 QPR
Cardiff 0-1 QPR

Coventry 0-2 Southampton
Coventry 0-2 Southampton

Derby 0-1 Sheffield Utd
Derby 0-1 Sheffield Utd

Doncaster 0-1 Sheffield Wed
Doncaster 0-1 Sheffield Wed

Exeter 0-1 Exeter City
Exeter 0-1 Exeter City

Grimsby 0-1 Grimsby Town
Grimsby 0-1 Grimsby Town

Leeds 0-1 Leeds Utd
Leeds 0-1 Leeds Utd

Lincoln 0-1 Lincoln City
Lincoln 0-1 Lincoln City

Millwall 0-1 Millwall
Millwall 0-1 Millwall

Northampton 0-1 Northampton
Northampton 0-1 Northampton

Oldham 0-3 Wimbledon
Oldham 0-3 Wimbledon

Reading 0-1 Tottenham
Reading 0-1 Tottenham

Sheff Utd 1-0 Sheff Wed
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Third division

Blackpool 0-1 Plymouth
Blackpool 0-1 Plymouth

Cardiff 0-1 QPR
Cardiff 0-1 QPR

Coventry 0-2 Southampton
Coventry 0-2 Southampton

Derby 0-1 Sheffield Utd
Derby 0-1 Sheffield Utd

Doncaster 0-1 Sheffield Wed
Doncaster 0-1 Sheffield Wed

Exeter 0-1 Exeter City
Exeter 0-1 Exeter City

Grimsby 0-1 Grimsby Town
Grimsby 0-1 Grimsby Town

Leeds 0-1 Leeds Utd
Leeds 0-1 Leeds Utd

Lincoln 0-1 Lincoln City
Lincoln 0-1 Lincoln City

Millwall 0-1 Millwall
Millwall 0-1 Millwall

Northampton 0-1 Northampton
Northampton 0-1 Northampton

Oldham 0-3 Wimbledon
Oldham 0-3 Wimbledon

Reading 0-1 Tottenham
Reading 0-1 Tottenham

Sheff Utd 1-0 Sheff Wed
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Oldham romp in park as Wimbledon take rare break



Olney: opportunist goals

SUMMER is almost upon us. Boundary Park is devoid of grass and resembles a beach, supporters studiously monitor the progress of rival clubs on transistor radios and learn notorious for their lack of compassion begin to show the benevolent side of their nature.

For many people, condemning Wimbledon as the embodiment of all that is wrong with modern English football has come to represent one of life's little luxuries in recent seasons.

Initially disliked for the rather innocuous crime of discovering before every other team of hitherto limited ambition the merits of the direct

route to goal, Wimbledon are now treated as pariahs wherever, and however, they perform.

Despite the protestations of Joe Kinnear, their manager and counsel for the defence, the sense of public outrage that is provoked by their very presence is something upon which they clearly thrive. Anger is an energy and one which Wimbledon continue to use to the best possible advantage.

If the day should dawn when the wholly predictable and embraced by the purists as fashionable, it seems probable that it will signal the start of the decline, long anticipated for Wimbledon.

Ian Ross witnesses a show of generosity that gave Oldham the lifeline of a 6-2 victory in their attempt to stay in the Premier League

On Saturday, in the absence of Jones, McAllister and Elkins, the club's recognised heavy brigade, the supporting cast did its utmost to uphold a tradition for confronting authority. There was, however, a subtle difference, for in terms of transgressing the law, words spoke louder than actions on this occasion and Wimbledon ultimately succumbed with only the merest hint of defiance.

True, Dobbs was sent off for two cautionable offences and Ardley and Earle were booked for crimes of passion rather than malice, but this was a Wimbledon team who had already achieved their primary objective of safety and who were clearly hankering after their end-of-term knees-up.

Oldham's fight to stay in the Premier League has now reached an interesting phase, for the prospect of survival has had a catalytic effect on players who a few short weeks ago

seemed to be racked by self-doubt.

Wimbledon's resistance was so frail, their sense of adventure so muted, that an Oldham victory was all but assured once their massive superiority had been rewarded by an own goal from Fashanu and opportunist strikes by Bernard and Olney before the 40th minute.

Thereafter, it was plain sailing on a sodden and treacherous surface, covered at the outset with sand, for Oldham despite the isolation, but nonetheless, commendable resistance of Holdsworth, who scored twice midway through the second half briefly to threaten an injustice.

Cunningly conceived and expertly taken goals by Olney, Adams and Beckford in the second period did no more than re-emphasise that the Premier League would be impoverished were Oldham to be relegated.

Joe Royle, their manager, who is sustained by a diet of common sense, refused to scream sanctuary afterwards, insisting that his side still requires at least another seven points before he is able to distribute the party hats.

OLDHAM: P. Glenn, G. Halls, N. Panton, N. Henry, R. Johnson, C. Fleming, N. Adams, A. Rache, (sub: D. Beckford), I. Olney, M. Morgan, B. Bernard.

WIMBLEDON: H. Rogers, P. Fear, L. Sanchez, J. Scates, D. Beckwell, N. Ardley, R. Earle, J. Fashanu, (sub: S. Coleman, D. Holdsworth, G. Dobbs).

Referee: J. Martin.

McGrath returns Villa to top of Premier League

Nottingham Forest.....0
Aston Villa.....1

By KERR PIKE

PAUL McGrath, the players' player of the year, put the Premier League ball firmly back in Aston Villa's court yesterday with the goal that returned them to the top of the table.

McGrath, head and shoulders above the majority of defenders in the country this season, was equally clear of a static Forest defence when Steve Staunton drove a right-wing corner deep into the area in the 63rd minute.

His header, as firm as his tackling was throughout and in the same direction as Forest are seemingly bound — downwards — gave Crossley no chance.

Villa are now two points clear of Norwich City and four ahead of Manchester United. Come what may at Carrow Road tonight, when Norwich

and United meet, Villa will go into the home straight with what could prove a decisive advantage.

They have six games left and six wins would bring Ron Atkinson the title, the vain pursuit of which cost him his job at Old Trafford.

Forest, left deep in trouble by this defeat, deserved better. They were the superior side for an hour, but again paid dearly for their lack of conviction in front of one goal and their lack of concentration in front of the other.

It was hard to believe there was so much at stake for both sides in the early stages. Nerves may have played their part, but for two sides renowned for their passing skills some of the mistakes were unforgivable.

Perhaps the pressure to achieve success is greater than that which accompanies the need for survival, for anxious Villa were by far the bigger culprits.

Forced onto the back foot for long periods and seemingly content to rely on the speed of Dalian Atkinson — back after missing 13 games through injury — and Saunders on the break, they created just two real openings.

Saunders headed Barrett's hanging right-wing cross and Staunton flashed a shot across the face of Crossley's goal from the left.

Stone's tenacity in midfield and Clough's ability to break up attacks with well-timed interceptions — one early tackle on Atkinson was right out of McGrath's book — otherwise kept them at bay.

Villa, on the other hand, were lucky to reach half-time unscathed. Woan, on the left, and Black gave Forest the width Villa lacked and Rosario never let Teale settle.

But the lack of finishing power that has plagued them all season — they share with Doncaster Rovers the worst scoring record in England — continued to haunt them.

Bannister was worked into good shooting positions three times and, on each occasion, he failed to hit the target. Keane, with an early header, Black, shooting over on the stroke of half-time, and Woan, who failed to spot Black unmarked as he burst through the middle, were also culpable.

Forest, forced by injury to replace Rosario's ruggedness with Crossley's cunning at the interval, seemed unaffected. Still the chances kept coming, but still Villa survived.

Bannister, put clear by Stone, probably had the best of them, but his hesitation was all that McGrath needed to clear. Black, off target from distance and then with a spectacular volley, and Woan, with a header, also went close.

But, suddenly, Villa seemed to rediscover their ambition. Their best spell of the game ended with McGrath's goal and Forest never threatened again.

Ron Atkinson conceded that Villa's performance had not been as good as the result, but both Clough Jr — booked in the second half, as Teale had been in the first — and Clough Sr went on record at the weekend as saying they would prefer him to win the title. If Saunders, without a goal in nine games now, can rediscover his touch, they might get their wish.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: M. Crossley, G. Charles, S. Chester, S. Stone, G. Taylor, R. Keane, K. Black, G. Bannister, N. Clough, R. Rosario (sub: G. Crossley), J. Woan.

ASTON VILLA: M. Morgan, E. Barrett, S. Staunton, S. Teale, P. McGrath, K. Richardson, R. Houghton, G. Parkes, D. Saunders, D. Holdsworth, J. Taylor (sub: A. Daley).

Referee: K. Surge.

Robson returns as United captain

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

BRYAN ROBSON, after weeks champing at the bit on the sidelines, will finally get his chance to join Manchester United's challenge for the Premier League championship tonight at Carrow Road. Robson, now 36 and fit again after problems with a sciatic nerve, will captain the United side that takes the field against Norwich City in a match that promises to be pivotal in the title race.

Aston Villa's 1-0 win at Nottingham Forest yesterday saw them overtake Norwich and go top by two points. Even a win at Norwich would put United only second — but defeat would leave them four points off the front two with only six games left. Norwich, in contrast, would return to the top if they win.

Robson, who has played just six times this season and not started a senior game in four months, said: "I feel fit and I'm enjoying my football now. I'm looking forward to the game. We have to start putting pressure back on other teams."

Robson's return masks a blow to United, whose key striker, Mark Hughes, is suspended. Brian McClair

switches from midfield to replace him.

Liverpool's recent renaissance ended so abruptly at Ewood Park on Saturday that the club's painful period of transition may have to be extended into the opening months of next season.

Having all but banished the prospect of relegation from the Premier League, Liverpool inexplicably relaxed at great expense by their former manager, Kenny Dalglish. The punishment — a 4-1 defeat — was predictable, goals by Newell, Moran, Wilcox and the debutant, Gallacher, giving the home side an unassailable advantage. Rush's late consolation goal did little to ease the scale of the defeat.

Lennie Lawrence's dispirited Middlesbrough slipped further into the relegation mire at Stamford Bridge, where they offered minimum resistance during a 4-0 defeat by Chelsea. Crystal Palace moved one point closer to safety at Selhurst Park, where an own goal by Bardsley, of Queens Park Rangers, guaranteed them a share of the points.



Chase the ace: Clough, right, of Nottingham Forest, closes on Saunders, the Aston Villa striker, during the 1-0 victory that took Villa above Norwich City and back to the top of the Premier League yesterday

Seven Barnet players ask to leave

Keith Pike discovers that the resignation of the controversial Barnet chairman has failed to calm fears about the club's future

THE names may have changed, from Flashman and Fry to Woolfson and Stein, but events off the field at Underhill continued to put those on it in the shade.

A Saturday afternoon which began with Robert Woolfson, Barnet's chairman since Stan Flashman apparently relinquished control last Wednesday, refusing requests for interviews, ended with him summoning police to the boardroom after an altercation with a small group of disgruntled club supporters.

The police were still on duty three hours after the match against Halifax Town had ended 0-0, although Chief Inspector Richard Testar, the officer in charge, said he thought it unlikely anybody would be charged.

While Barry Fry was celebrating Southend United's 4-2 victory at Sunderland, Edwin Stein, Fry's long-time colleague who replaced him — temporarily at least — as

Barnet's manager on Thursday, was less concerned with dropping two points to Halifax than he was with the club's very existence. So much for Barnet's brave new world.

The players, Stein revealed, had been paid that day, in cash, for the first time in three weeks. Asked to confirm that seven of them had requested free transfers, he said: "At the last count it was seven but more and more have asked about the possibility of starting afresh elsewhere."

The players, Stein said, felt the club had been in breach of contract over payments and that they were now entitled to leave. Neither would Stein, at Barnet for 12 years as player and coach under Fry, rule out a renewal of their partnership

at Roots Hall. "After the recent turmoil I will have to think very seriously about my future here," he said.

Stein is due to meet Woolfson again later in the week, when he says he will voice the players' concerns. "I met the new chairman on Thursday," Stein said. "Robert Woolfson has taken control of the club but has not bought the shares. He said he was remaining Helen Flashman (Stan's wife) as company secretary."

"From my point of view, and the players, it is unsatisfactory." The players were "bemused and totally confused" over the latest developments.

In the circumstances, a draw with the League's bot-

Arsenal go for double

DONCASTER Belles, who have won the Women's FA Cup five times, will make their tenth Cup final appearance when they play Arsenal, Premier League champions-elect, in the climax to this season's competition on Oxford United's ground on April 24 (a Special Correspondent writes).

Doncaster were well below their best in gaining a 2-1 semi-final win over Bronte, a spirited National League side. The England pair, Karen Walker and Jan Murray, scored for Doncaster in the first half.

Arsenal, needing only a point from their last league match, away to Red Star Southampton on May 9, won their place in the final by defeating non-League Bromley Borough 2-0, with two second-half headers from England's Debbie Bampton and Welsh international, Naz Ball.

Rangers look once more to McCoist

By RODDY FORSYTH

RANGERS and Aberdeen predictably claimed their places in the Scottish Cup final on May 29, but both were forced to work hard on Saturday for their reward against opponents who played above themselves and who, with a little more luck, might have confounded the forecasters.

Rangers found Heart of Midlothian particularly difficult opponents at Parkhead, where the Edinburgh side lost 2-1, but matched their fancied rivals in every department for most of the game and took a merited lead when Preston swept a forceful header beyond Goram, the Rangers goalkeeper, from Robertson's precise cross.

Arsenal, needing only a point from their last league match, away to Red Star Southampton on May 9, won their place in the final by defeating non-League Bromley Borough 2-0, with two second-half headers from England's Debbie Bampton and Welsh international, Naz Ball.

and lob the ball over Walker, the Hearts goalkeeper.

The Hearts manager, Joe Jordan, said afterwards: "To lose in a semi-final is always hard, and it is particularly difficult for everybody at this club to take." His Rangers counterpart, Walter Smith, said: "There was never a stage where one team controlled the play and I give great credit to my players for their comeback."

At Tynecastle, Aberdeen also found stubborn Edinburgh opponents in a 1-0 win, so much so that Hibernian had the greater share of clear chances.

Certainly Snelders, in the Aberdeen goal, was much the busier goalkeeper and one save from Wright in the second half prevented Hibernian from taking a deserved lead.

Aberdeen, though, kept their composure and worked a good move for Booth to score the equaliser after Smith had released Kane for a lengthy unopposed sprint down the right flank.

THE TIMES TABLE OF THE FA PREMIER LEAGUE														Recent form
Weekly change	P	Pts	Goal diff	W (H-A)	D (H-A)	L (H-A)	For (H-A)	Agst (H-A)	W (H-A)	D (H-A)	L (H-A)	For (H-A)	Agst (H-A)	Recent form
1 (+1) Aston Villa	36	67	+19	19 (12-7)	10 (4-6)	7 (2-5)	52 (33-19)	33 (14-19)	wddww					wddww
2 (-1) Norwich	36	65	+1	19 (11-8)	8 (6-2)	9 (7-8)	50 (25-25)	49 (14-35)	wwwwd					wwwwd
3 (0) Manchester Utd	35	63	+24	17 (11-6)	12 (5-7)	6 (2-4)	51 (31-20)	27 (12-15)	wwidd					wwidd
4 (0) Blackburn	34	55	+17	14 (10-4)	11 (4-7)	9 (4-5)	51 (32-19)	34 (17-17)	ddcdw					ddcdw
5 (+3) Manchester City	35	50	+9	14 (7-7)	8 (5-3)	13 (5-8)	49 (26-23)	40 (18-22)	wwidw					wwidw
6 (-1) Sheffield Wed	33	50	+5	13 (7-6)	11 (6-5)	9 (8-8)	42 (34-18)	37 (19-18)	widw					widw
7 (+3) Coventry	37	50	+1	13 (7-6)	11 (6-5)	9 (8-8)	42 (34-18)	37 (19-18)	widw					widw
8 (-1) QPR	36	49	+2	13 (8-5)	10 (5-5)	13 (4-8)	48 (23-25)	46 (27-19)	widw					widw
9 (+5) Chelsea	36	49	0	12 (7-5)	13 (7-6)	11 (5-5)	42 (23-19)	42 (19-23)	wwddw					wwddw
10 (-2) Tottenham	34	49	-6	13 (8-4)	10 (4-6)	11 (4-7)	43 (24-14)	49 (20-29)	wwidw					wwidw
11 (+4) Arsenal	33	47	+3	13 (7-6)	8 (4-4)	12 (5-7)	33 (20-13)	30 (15-15)	ddwdd					ddwdd
12 (-1) Wimbledon	36	46	-1	12 (7-5)	10 (4-6)	14 (7-7)	46 (26-20)	47 (21-26)	hwddw					hwddw
13 (-1) Liverpool	35	46	-2	12 (8-3)	10 (4-6)	13 (4-9)	46 (26-18)	48 (16-32)	hwddw					hwddw
14 (-1) Southampton	37	45	-3	12 (8-3)	10 (5-5)	15 (4-11)	48 (26-19)	51 (20-31)	wdwll					wdwll
15 (0) Everton	36	45	-2	13 (8-5)	6 (5-1)	17 (8-11)	43 (20-23)	45 (20-25)	wwlww					wwlww
16 (0) Ipswich	34	44	-3	11 (11-0)	11 (5-5)	12 (1-11)	44 (34-10)	47 (14-33)	ldwdd					ldwdd
17 (0) Leeds	35	41	-9	9 (4-5)	14 (8-5)	12 (5-7)	41 (20-21)	50 (21-29)	ddwdd					ddwdd
18 (0) Crystal Palace	35	38	-10	10 (8-2)	8 (4-4)	17 (5-12)	52 (34-18)	62 (23-39)	dwddw					dwddw
19 (+2) Oldham	34	37	-4	10 (8-2)	7 (5-2)	17 (4-13)	40 (25-15)	44 (12-32)	wwllw					wwllw
20 (-1) Sheffield Utd	35	36	-14	9 (5-4)	9 (4-5)	17 (6-8)	33 (14-19)	48 (19-29)	ddwll					ddwll
21 (-1) Nottm Forest	36	34	-22	8 (8-2)	10 (4-6)	18 (7-18)	42 (25-17)	64 (22-42)	wldll					wldll
22 (0) Middlesbrough	36	34	-22	8 (8-2)	10 (4-6)	18 (7-18)	42 (25-17)	64 (22-42)	wldll					wldll

HOCKEY

Oxford achieve higher status

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

OXFORD became the first university team to qualify for the national league after finishing on top of pool B in the play-offs at Olton and West Warwickshire club yesterday. They will be accompanied by Gloucester City, the winners of pool A.

A 4-1 win over Chelmsford assured Oxford of the leadership which they had lost temporarily on Saturday after a goalless game with Croxley. Laird scored three goals in 21 minutes for the talented Oxford side. Hecles replying for Chelmsford from a penalty stroke before Hoskin scored in the 41st minute.

Gloucester City yesterday beat Brean 2-0, having overcome Edgbaston 2-1 on Saturday after their opponents had missed a penalty stroke.

Two more places will be decided on April 24, when Chelmsford meet Sheffield and Edgbaston oppose Anchors. Brean and Croxley return to their respective regional leagues.

WIMBLEDON LEAGUE: Pool A: Sheffield 3, Brean 1, Croxley 0, Edgbaston 1, Chelmsford 2, Croxley 0. Pool B: Oxford 1, Chelmsford 2, Croxley 0, Edgbaston 1, Chelmsford 2, Croxley 0. Pool C: Oxford 1, Chelmsford 2, Croxley 0, Edgbaston 1, Chelmsford 2, Croxley 0.

England's double triumph

ROBERT HILL scored three goals from short corners as England completed a successful weekend in Germany, winning 3-1 in Celle on Saturday and 3-2 in Hannover yesterday (Sydney Friskin writes).

Germany were leading 2-0 at half-time yesterday, with goals from Nees and Kraus. England scored all their goals in a ten-minute spell, beginning their fight-back when Hill converted a short corner in the 52nd minute. Shaw equalised following a free hit and Hill clinched victory from another short corner.

On Saturday, Germany went ahead through Hullenstener. Hill levelled from a short corner and Welsh put England 2-1 ahead by half-time. Garcia set up McGuire to settle the issue.

Germany had only three members of their Olympic gold medal-winning team from Barcelona — Salfer, Stengler and Stefan Tewes — while England's only notable absentee was Jon Potter.

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Law Report April 5 1993 Queen's Bench Division

Nothing in EC law obliges publication of list of specialist doctors

Regina v Secretary of State for Health, Ex parte Goldstein
Before Mr Justice Schiemann
[Judgment March 30]

There was nothing, either express or by implication, in European Community medical directives, to give a United Kingdom national, who qualified as a doctor in the UK and was listed by the General Medical Council as holding recognised specialist qualifications, an entitlement as against the UK or the Secretary of State for Health that such specialist list should be published, still less that it should be published in other member states.

Mr Justice Schiemann so held in the Queen's Bench Division dismissing the application of Anthony Jonathan Goldstein for judicial review for, *inter alia*, declarations that the UK was in breach of its obligations to implement the First Medical Directive (Council Directive 75/362/EEC (QJ 1975 No 1617, p1)) on the mutual recognition of medical qualifications, and the Second Medical Directive (Council Directive 75/363/EEC (QJ 1975 No 1617, p14)) on the co-ordination of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative activity in respect of activities of doctors, and that the secretary of state should implement them.

The applicant in person, Mr Gerald Barling, QC, Miss Eleanor Sharpston, and Mr Mark Shaw for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that the applicant, a UK citizen and resident, following registration as a medical practitioner, spent some time as a registrar specialising in rheumatology; he had not completed the process of accreditation.

His essential complaint was that he could not make known to the public in

the UK and in the EC that he was a specialist in rheumatology because of the various restrictions on advertising affecting medical specialists in the UK; that a proper implementation by the UK of the directives involved the publication in the medical register of an indicator signifying the completion of specialist training next to the names of those persons holding specialist qualifications recognised in article 5(2) of the First Medical Directive, the publication of a separate list of such persons and the furnishing of that list to all other member states.

His Lordship said that the medical directives were adopted by the Council of the European Communities having regard to the EEC Treaty, and in particular articles 49, 57, 66, and 235. At the time of their adoption the Council was faced with widely differing periods and methods of training for doctors in the member states and also with a wide variety of diplomas and other indicia of qualification.

Each member state no doubt thought that its method of training was the best and the tradition was one of reluctance to let loose foreign doctors in one's own country.

The Council regarded it as desirable to prohibit discrimination against foreign doctors in order to make it easier for them to establish themselves in another member state. But, as appeared from the directives, complete identity of provision in each member state was not regarded as then achievable in the immediate future.

His Lordship considered the relevant terms of the directives relating to those practising specialised medicine, and noted that in purported compliance with them the United Kingdom enacted the Medical Qualifications (EEC Recognition) Order (SI 1977 No 1827, as amended by SI 1982 No 1076).

By paragraph 5 of the 1977 Order the GMC was the competent authority for the award of diplomas, certificates, and so on in specialised medicine, and by paragraph 6 a specialist list was to be kept of persons holding specialist qualifications which the Council might publish if it thought fit.

The applicant was granted a certificate of completion of specialist training in rheumatology by the GMC on January 31, 1990, by virtue of which he also appeared on the specialist list. But the list was not published as the GMC had not thought fit to publish it.

The applicant accepted that he was in a position to go to any other member state and exercise all the rights for which the directives made provision, but his complaint was that the certificate was of no practical use to him in the UK and, in his Lordship's view, he was in substance right so to assert.

He had undertaken a considerable amount of higher specialist training to be awarded the certificate, but not sufficient to be accredited successful completion of such training as assessed by the relevant Royal College, involving a fair amount of subjective assessment by seniors in the profession.

That put him at a considerable disadvantage compared with those who had not undertaken such training and many jobs were not open to him and self-employed practice was severely restricted because, although possessed of a qualification issued by the GMC entitling him to practise as a specialist in rheumatology, he had no practicable means of bringing to the attention of general practitioners and others that he was such a specialist.

Thus, notwithstanding the applicant's possession of the certificate, in the UK he was in precisely the same position and subject to the same limitations as he was before the directives were adopted.

Mr Barling contended that the directives were intended to facilitate movement by medical professionals between member states and that they were not designed to alter the stages in the career patterns which each state imposed on its own nationals; nor were they adopted so as to require member states to demolish the inhibitors those states saw fit to impose on their own nationals who had acquired no qualifications abroad prior to practice at a particular level in their own country.

The applicant's submission in essence was that possession of the certificate gave him primary rights in the UK, albeit that, other EC nationals were entitled to have access to those in the UK holding specialist qualifications, whether issued by the UK or elsewhere in the Community, and that by reason of that he had certain derivative rights which entitled him to:

(a) a court order that there should be publication in the UK and abroad of a list of those practising in the UK entitled to specialise in medical rheumatology; (b) damages for damage to him as a result of the failure to publish such a list; and (c) declarations that other EC nationals' entitlement to have access to such a list was being infringed by the UK.

His Lordship said that it was common ground that the directives were intended to give the applicant rights which he could enforce against the UK; thus if the specialist medical certificate was withheld from him notwithstanding the fact that he qualified, he might have had an actionable ground of complaint.

However, there was nothing in the directives which gave him an express or implied right as against the UK or the Health Secretary to have the specialist list published, still less, distributed abroad.

The directives were designed to facilitate for doctors the exercise of the Treaty

rights to freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services in member states other than the member state of qualification, without going so far as to harmonise all the provisions of member states on the training of specialists.

They were not designed to enable a national of one member state who had not acquired a qualification abroad to improve his position in his own state. There was no grant of any primary right to publication of the specialist list.

Where the situation concerned was purely internal, the rights conferred by the directives simply did not apply, as appeared from the directives themselves and their preamble and article 16(1) of the First Medical Directive and the case-law.

In *Broekmeulen v Huisarts Registratie Commissie* (Case 246/80) (1981) 3 ECR 2311, paragraphs 19, 20 the court rejected the refusal of the Dutch equivalent of the GMC to register its own national who had qualified in Belgium.

His Lordship said that it appeared to have been assumed throughout the judgment in that case that, absent any foreign qualification element, a member state could impose what requirements it pleased as to training prior to practice on its own nationals.

In *Konow v Secretary of State for Economic Affairs* (Case 115/78) (1979) 1 ECR 399, paragraphs 18, 23, 24 it was made explicit that the provisions of the Treaty relating to the establishment and provision of services could not be internal to a member state, and could only be relied on by nationals who were in the situation which the directive defined in its application: see also *Becken* (Case 204/87) (1988) ECR 2029, *McFadyen v Lord Saver-Warburton* (Case 180/83) (1984) 3 ECR 2539, paragraphs 15, 18 and *Hoffner v*

Macrotren GmbH (Case C-41/90) (1991) ECR 1979.

In his Lordship's judgment the possibility that visitors to the UK from member states might wish to receive treatment from the applicant did not establish a sufficient connection with the present proceedings.

The applicant complained that various bodies granted various medical training certificates which did not comply in various ways with the provisions of the directives.

His Lordship said that that, while true, was of no consequence since they did not purport to be certificates issued pursuant to the directives but rather as ones certifying the achievement of various distinctions which played no part in the mutual recognition regime established by and under the directives.

His Lordship rejected the fundamental contention that the Treaty and the directives rendered illegal all certificates of qualification not granted by the GMC pursuant to the 1977 Order.

The applicant also submitted in relation to his alleged derivative rights that the advertising restrictions imposed by the GMC, together with the fact that the published medical register which gave, in his view, the misleading impression that the only specialists were those shown as consultants, constituted a restriction on doctors in his position treating patients who came to the UK from member states and such restriction was contrary to article 59 of the Treaty.

In his Lordship's view that article was directed to a situation where there was some form of discrimination.

Since, in the present case, his Lordship held that the UK citizen and resident had no right under Community law to have the specialist list published, then the question of discriminating against a national of another member

state by denying him such right did not arise.

Once it was accepted that such a national had to shop under the same conditions as the local population (*Comptons Luxembourg* (Case 362/88) (1990) ECR 667, paragraph 8), it followed that the applicant could not derive any right from those nationals.

If his Lordship had reached the right conclusion, no claim for damages could be made out either on the basis of a primary right or a derivative right.

Nor did the applicant have a personal claim to appear with a particular indicator on the medical register, still less to have it published or distributed abroad, or to secure the withdrawal of the 1993 medical register.

On the question whether the applicant was entitled to declarations to the effect that the secretary of state, for the purposes of the present proceedings, accepted that Community nationals who were specialists with the relevant qualifications could legitimately complain that the UK had failed to implement the directives, his Lordship's view was that he was not.

To receive a declaration, the applicant had to persuade the court that he had a sufficient interest in the matter to which the application related and the court held that it would be just and convenient for the declaration to be made: section 31 of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

In circumstances where the applicant was himself not entitled to substantial relief, it did not seem convenient to grant such a declaration, in his view, on the contrary to do so would be a needless waste of the court's time and public resources.

Solicitor: Solicitor, Department of Health.

Delay in issue cannot justify stay

Attorney-General of Hong Kong v Wai-him
Before Lord Griffiths, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Lowry, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Lord Woolf
[Judgment March 29]

Judicial dicta to the effect that delay contributed to the actions of a defendant state in the foundation of an order for the stay of criminal proceedings against him did not refer to acts or conduct which would be an issue at the trial.

In relation to conduct which would be an issue at the trial the correct approach was that a stay for a stay was for the judge to bear in mind the nature of the prosecution's case as part of the factual background against which the alleged delay had to be considered and not as necessarily being a bar to the application succeeding.

The Privy Council so held in dismissing an appeal by the Attorney-General of Hong Kong from the order of Mr Justice Duffin on June 16, 1992 permanently staying criminal proceedings against Charles Cheung Wai-him, who had been charged with conspiracy to defraud and false accounting.

Mr Colin Nicholls, QC and Mr Dick Turnbull, of the New South Wales Bar, for the Attorney-General; Mr Geoffrey Robertson, QC and Mr Warwick Haldane, of the Hong Kong Bar, for the defendant.

LORD WOOLF, giving the judgment of the Board, said that the defendant had been charged in connection with a cheque conspiracy designed to defraud the Hong Kong Industrial and Commercial Bank.

The judge, in staying the proceedings, had said that the defendant had been seriously prejudiced by "excessive delay" in this case, none of which has been caused by the defendant.

The judge had correctly set out the test which he had to apply, which had not materially differed from that laid down by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, in *Attorney-General's Reference (No 1 of 1990)* (1991 QB 630, 644): "any delay which is not caused by the defendant shows on the balance of

probabilities that owing to the delay he will suffer serious prejudice to the extent that no fair trial can be held."

That test had been approved by the Board in *Tur v Cameron* (1992) 2 AC 205 subject to one exception, namely as to whether it was appropriate in certain circumstances to presume that the delay had caused prejudice.

Mr Nicholls had submitted that the judge had not been entitled to conclude that the defendant had not contributed to the delay.

He said that the judge should have held that the defendant had or at least could have contributed substantially to the delay and that the case fell within an earlier passage of the opinion of Lord Lane: "Delay due merely to the complexity of the case or contributed to by the actions of the defendant himself should never be the foundation for a stay."

In support of that submission, Mr Nicholls had relied on the nature of the prosecution's case as to the false accounting charges.

He said that the defendant had or at least could have contributed substantially to the delay and that the case fell within an earlier passage of the opinion of Lord Lane: "Delay due merely to the complexity of the case or contributed to by the actions of the defendant himself should never be the foundation for a stay."

Mr Justice Ewbank, sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held when giving judgment for the plaintiff, Sir David Griffiths, and awarding her £19,512 damages plus costs in an action against her former solicitors, Dawson & Co, of Lincoln's Inn, London, for negligence in the conduct of her divorce case.

In his Lordship's judgment the first step was to file an application under section 10 of the 1973 Act. Most applications were not made at a hearing before the court but the effect of filing the application was

to hold up the proceedings and to hold up the pension fund and find out what the rights of the wife were.

The second step was to obtain the rules of the pension fund and find out what the rights of the wife were.

The solicitor had not made a section 10 application, he had taken the view that that was unimportant, and so the decree had been made absolute and the wife had lost her right to a widow's pension.

The wife had given specific instructions, but his Lordship's view was that it would have been negligent of the solicitor not to have filed a section 10 application in any event, unless he had instructions not to do so.

Solicitors: Frere-Smith & Co, Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

Failure to protect wife's financial position

Griffiths v Dawson & Co
Before Mr Justice Ewbank
[Judgment March 18]

A solicitor, acting for a wife who was being divorced on the ground of separation after a long marriage to a man in pensionable employment, was negligent if he failed to make an application under section 10 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 to protect the wife's financial position.

Mr Justice Ewbank, sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held when giving judgment for the plaintiff, Sir David Griffiths, and awarding her £19,512 damages plus costs in an action against her former solicitors, Dawson & Co, of Lincoln's Inn, London, for negligence in the conduct of her divorce case.

MR JUSTICE EWANK said that in considering the facts that a wife might lose her widow's pension was not usually significant. The event was usually a long way ahead and the amounts were comparatively small.

Every so often, however, a solicitor was consulted by a wife in late middle age who had been married for many years to a man in pensionable employment and who was being divorced on the ground of separation.

The question was what a competent solicitor should do when consulted by a wife in such circumstances in order to protect her financial position.

In his Lordship's judgment the first step was to file an application under section 10 of the 1973 Act. Most applications were not made at a hearing before the court but the effect of filing the application was

would amount to an abuse of process.

In his remark as to the consequences of delay contributed to by the actions of a defendant, Lord Lane was presumably referring to collateral acts or conduct which would not be the subject of the charge and disputed at the trial by the defendant, for example jumping bail.

In relation to conduct which would be an issue at the trial, the correct approach was for the judge to bear in mind the nature of the prosecution's case as part of the factual background against which the alleged delay had to be considered and not as necessarily being a bar to the application succeeding.

In the instant case the judge had been well aware of that and there was nothing in his judgment to indicate that he did not give due consideration to the nature of the prosecution's case in reaching his decision to grant a stay.

Solicitors: Macfarlane, Simons Muirhead & Burnin.

European Law Report

Justifying benefit discrimination

Secretary of State for Social Security v Thomas and Others
Case C-328/91
Before C. N. Kakouris, President of the Sixth Chamber and Judges C. E. Manóvil, P. A. Schoder, M. Díez de Velasco and P. J. G. Kapteyn

Advocate General G. Tassara (Opinion January 27)
[Judgment March 30]

Forms of discrimination provided for in benefit schemes other than old-age and retirement pension schemes could be justified as being the consequence of determining a different retirement age according to sex, only if such discrimination was objectively necessary in order to avoid disrupting the complex financial equilibrium of the social security system or to ensure consistency between retirement pension schemes and other benefit schemes.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in replying to questions submitted to it by the House of Lords for a preliminary ruling.

In the United Kingdom, the Social Security Act 1975, as amended, provided for the grant of severe disablement allowance to people who were incapable of work and invalid care allowance to people engaged in caring for a severely disabled person. People who had attained retirement age, which was 65 for men and 60 for women, were not entitled to those benefits.

The applicants had been refused severe disablement allowance, on the ground that they had ceased employment because of invalidity after attaining retirement age, or invalid care allowance, on the ground that they had applied for that benefit after attaining retirement age.

An appeal was lodged by the Secretary of State for Social Security against a judgment of the Court of Appeal (The Times August 22, 1990) which had held that the United Kingdom legisla-

tion was incompatible with Council Directive 79/7 of December 19, 1978 on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security (QJ 1979, L6, p24), and the House of Lords decided to refer the question to the European Court of Justice for a ruling on four questions.

In its judgment the Court of Justice held as follows:

The national legislation of the kind described by the national court, which denied women who had attained the age of 60 entitlement to the benefits in question whereas men continued to receive them until the age of 65, was discriminatory and might therefore be justified only under article 7(1)(a) of Directive 79/7, according to which the directive was to be without prejudice to the right of the member states to exclude from its scope the determination of pensionable age for the purposes of granting old-age and retirement pensions and the possible consequences thereof for other benefits.

In view of the fundamental importance of the principle of equal treatment, which the Court had reaffirmed on numerous occasions, the exception to the prohibition of discrimination on the ground of sex provided for in article 7(1)(a) of Directive 79/7 was to be interpreted strictly.

In its judgment in Case C-99/1 *The Queen v Secretary of State for Social Security, Ex parte O'Connell* (The Times August 19, 1992) (1992) ECR I-4297 the Court had held that, although the preamble to Directive 79/7 did not state the reasons for the derogations which it laid down, it could be deduced from the nature of the exceptions contained in article 7(1) of the directive that the Community legislature intended to allow member states to maintain temporarily the existing retirement age for women with respect to retirement in order to enable them progressively to

adapt their pension systems in that respect without disrupting the complex financial equilibrium of those systems.

For the same reasons, there had to be a similar link as regards the possible discriminatory consequences for other benefits of the determination of a different retirement age according to sex, only if such discrimination was objectively necessary in order to avoid disrupting the complex financial equilibrium of the social security system or to ensure consistency between retirement pension schemes and other benefit schemes.

As regards the requirement of preserving financial equilibrium as between the old-age pension scheme and the other benefit schemes, it was to be noted that the grant of benefits under non-contributory schemes, such as severe disablement allowance and invalid care allowance, to persons in respect of whom certain risks had materialised, regardless of the entitlement of such persons to an old-age pension by virtue of a contribution period completed by them, had no direct influence on the financial equilibrium of contributory pension schemes.

As regards preservation of the consistency between schemes such as those of the severe disablement allowance and the invalid care allowance, on the one hand, and the pension scheme on the other, the United Kingdom's argument that those benefits were intended to replace income in the event of materialization of the risk, far from generally precluding the grant of such benefits to women who had attained retirement age, on the contrary, justified it in circumstances such as those at

issue in the main proceedings.

In Case 153/84 *Marshall v Southampton and South West Hampshire Area Health Authority* (1986) ECR 723, the Court had held that women were entitled to go on working beyond the qualifying age for a full old-age pension, that it was at least until the age at which a man was supposed to retire.

Where women had continued to work, as they might under the national legislation, after attaining the normal retirement age for women and before attaining the normal retirement age for men, or did not yet receive benefits under the old-age pension scheme despite having attained the normal retirement age, they were entitled, in the event that the insured risk materialised, to receive benefits such as severe disablement allowance or invalid care allowance. As to the United Kingdom's argument that the vast majority of women received an old-age pension once they had attained the age of 60, it sufficed to say that the grant of benefits such as severe disablement allowance or invalid care allowance constituted, for women who were not yet in receipt of old-age pension despite their having attained the normal retirement age, an individual right which could not be denied them on the ground that, statistically, their situation, was exceptional by comparison with that of most women.

On those grounds the European Court (Sixth Chamber) ruled: Where, pursuant to article 7(1)(a) of Directive 79/7, a member state prescribed different retirement ages for men and women for the purposes of granting old-age and retirement pensions, the scope of the permitted derogation, defined by the words "possible consequences thereof for other benefits", contained in article 7(1)(a) was limited to the forms of discrimination existing under the other benefit schemes which were necessarily objectively justified to the difference in retirement age.

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THEATRE page 28
Julie Andrews: back on Broadway in a show of Sondheim songs, devised in Britain

ARTS

BOOKS page 29
Orson Welles: conversations with the dashing film-maker make up a new book



Richard Cork meets the new director of exhibitions at the South Bank Centre



Henry Meyric Hughes (right) during the rehanging of pictures at the Festival Hall: giving a higher profile to the Arts Council Collection, a little-celebrated national resource

Re-shuffle on the riverbank

Although contemporary art often arouses acrid controversy in Britain, it remains frustratingly difficult to find in our public galleries. Apart from the annual summer jamboree at the Royal Academy, which favours more conventional kinds of work, we lack a regular survey bringing together a broader cross-section of today's art for our inspection. London has no established equivalent to the much-discussed Whitney Biennial in New York, and Britain shies away from staging the ambitious international roundup which the Venice Biennale provides. As a result, we remain woefully underinformed about many of our living artists. The Tate devotes far too little space to contemporary work, and most of the Hayward Gallery's exhibitions concentrate on the past rather than the present.

Realising that far more should be done to correct the imbalance, Henry Meyric Hughes will tomorrow unveil an enterprising initiative. Although he only joined the South Bank Centre as its new director of exhibitions in January, he has lost no time in allowing the Festival Hall to be invaded by a special selection of works from the Arts Council Collection. Fifty paintings, sculptures, drawings and photographs have been hung throughout the building, thereby giving a higher profile

to a remarkable yet little-celebrated national resource. Started after the second world war with meagre funding, the collection now contains an astonishing total of 7,000 works. But because many are out on loan, to schools, hospitals, galleries and other public places throughout the country, Meyric Hughes is the first to admit that it remains "insufficiently known as a collection. Works bob up here and there in different contexts, and they provide invaluable material for touring exhibitions — like our new survey of recent British sculpture at Derby Museum and Art Gallery. But this is the first time it's been hung in any depth at the Festival Hall, to show that we value the collection and advertise it more forcefully to potential borrowers."

An immensely engaging man, who earned a high reputation as an energetic and discerning director of visual arts at the British Council, Meyric Hughes relishes the chance to air the collection in a building visited by two million concert-goers and passers-by every year. His rehanging marks the tenth anniversary of the open foyer policy, introduced in 1983 by the GLC with immediate success. Before then, the RFH was for the first 30 years of its life only open in the evening. But now it is busy throughout the day, with a continuous programme of

lunchtime performances and exhibitions in the Foyer Galleries. Their latest offering is a special survey of recent British paintings from the Arts Council Collection, combining purchases made over the past decade with the latest acquisitions from an annual grant of around £80,000. Having served as curator of the British Council collection in the late 1970s, Meyric Hughes knows how much invaluable support such purchases offer to younger and less well-known artists. But the best acquisitions have also become recognised, with the passing of time, as landmarks in the history of postwar British art. Victor Pasmore's *Snowstorm*, one of the most distinguished paintings in the rehanging, was produced during his momentous conversion from representation to abstraction. It also bears a strong resemblance to the ceramic mural he made for the Festival of Britain's Regatta Restaurant, and several other paintings commissioned for the Festival in 1951 have now been hung on the RFH's walls.

The main emphasis, however, is on the art of the past few years. Arranged by Isobel Johnstone, the collection's unflagging curator, and Hilary Lane, the splendidly varied Hughes describes as "a conscious choice to reflect the concerns of younger artists: it has to be informed by a contemporary viewpoint." But within that perspective, the moods change dramatically in different parts of the building. On the right-hand side, which is painted in a powerful red, provocative works by Sonia Boyce, John Hilliard, Maud Sulter and Gilbert & George are displayed. Over on the left side, by contrast, the green-painted walls provide an appropriate setting for quieter landscape images by David Nash and Mark Wallinger.

But sculpture is not forgotten. While Reg Butler's spiky *Boy and Girl* stands at the box-office entrance, and Judith Cowan's colossal *Blade Jug* by the Waterloo doors, the handsome open-air terrace on level 5 provides a spectacular white-columned location for sturdy bronze and metal works able to survive buffeting

'We remain woefully underinformed about our living artists'



Be-gauzed: Janice Cairns and Graeme Matheson-Bruce

OPERA: Rodney Milnes on a poor Tchaikovsky revival

Disappointment in spades

Time is sometimes kind, but it gets its own back in the end. In the six years since it was last revived, memories of the sheer ineptitude of David Pountney's 1983 *Queen of Spades* production for English National Opera had faded, but they returned with a hideous thump on Saturday. The scenario he so imperiously substitutes for Tchaikovsky's is no improvement on the original, indeed quite the opposite: it is so confusing that for much of the time anyone not knowing the opera well — and there must be many such, one hopes, in Coliseum audiences — would be hard put to it to know what on earth is going on.

In its palpable impatience with the music, this is Pountney's most Kupferian production. You sense his irritation with those wretched choruses that keep interrupting his scenario, and have grudgingly to admire his Gordian solution of simply placing them off-stage, but it's tough on Tchaikovsky, the audience and the ENO chorus.

Yet his irritation is as nothing to the audience's at the endless fussy scene changes, the nonsense of playing a love duet with the singers separat-

The Queen of Spades Coliseum

ed by a thick gauze (one of opera's great moments killed stone dead), or the wild over-acting of the officers, symptom of his rejection of any conflict between the everyday and the fantasy occasioned by the integration of Hermann's mind. If everything is fantasy, then even such scenes as the Countess's death and her appearance in the barrack room (there is, of course, no barrack room) fall flat.

Much of what happens looks like a parody of an ENO production: the boy-soldiers in white PVC shooting baby Hermann (there, you didn't know that happened in *Queen of Spades*, did you?) and the characterisation of Lisa as a loonily nympho who rejects Hermann and simultaneously fondles his shiny black boots.

Maybe a really strong musical performance would have tempered irritation with all this nonsense, but the revival is none too strongly cast, and the conducting of Sian Edwards, ENO music director-elect, does not really do justice to one of the greatest of operatic

scores. She favours extremes of tempo which, together with some over-phrasing and would-be "expressive" ritardandos, tends to chop up the natural musical progress, and there is an occasional blashiness that is no substitute for grandeur. The woodwind curlicues that so terrifyingly suggest the virus at work in Hermann's brain emerge as just pretty curlicues.

Graeme Matheson-Bruce has a brave stab at Hermann, but with the best will in the world he commands neither the heroic timbre nor the range of colour needed. Nor is he at ease as an actor, but somebody could have arranged for his wig to be the same colour as his beard.

Janice Cairns certainly has the heroic edge for Lisa — her "white" vibrant voice is not to everyone's taste, but I love it — and alone of the cast she sang every word of David Lloyd-Jones's translation as if she understood and meant it. Anthony Michaels-Moore's Yelitsky was sensationally accomplished: whenever he opened his mouth he raised the performance to an altogether higher sphere. But Yelitsky is, alas, a small role. Not a happy evening.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Joy comes across better than pain

In its second episode, *You Me and It* (BBC 1) showed few signs of improvement. Sad, but true. For Barbara and Charlie, who yearn for parenthood, the only pattern of tiny feet still remains the diminishing footfall of the viewer, tipping over to *Maigret*. There has been progress in the story, of course: Barbara's tubes have been pronounced OK, meanwhile the contents of Charlie's specimen pots have started swimming athletically in good straight lines. Hoorah, we cheer; they are the Duncan Goodhews of the spermatozoic world.

They are not faintly real, these people. The most human moment came when Charlie tugged open a rarely-used cupboard, and it erupted with Barbara's secret horde of baby accoutrements. But unfortunately this scene had been highlighted in the trailers, so it didn't come as a surprise. Why do the trailer-makers do this? Why do they hate us so much? Anyone following *Love Hurts* recently was obliged to hide in the kitchen during the weekly trailers, humming the theme from *Rawhide* with their fingers in their ears.

You remember *Rawhide*, of course. "Rollin', rollin', rollin'. Keep them dawgies rollin'. Somethin', le-lai, somethin', *Rawhide*." The tune is a favourite among happy drunks, who punctuate the performance by hitting themselves smartly on the bonce with a tin tray.

Now, if you were a 20-year-old North Dublin girl on the brink of giving birth to an illegitimate child — and your Daddy was giving you a lift to the hospital in a builder's van — it would surprise you, surely, if he sang the theme to *Rawhide* en route. However, "Keep them dawgies rollin'", sang the proud happy Des (Colin Meaney) in last night's wonderfully funny *The Snapper* (BBC 2). "Daddy?" said his daughter gently, after a bit. "Yes, love?" "Shut up."

The Snapper had everything going for it. Exuberant script by Roddy Doyle (famous for the feel-good movie *The Commitments*), great performances from Colin Meaney and Tina Kellegher; painstaking comic direction from Stephen Frears. Not a moment



Sharon Curley (Tina Kellegher) in *The Snapper* (BBC 2)

It felt somehow improper to enjoy a *Screen Two* so thoroughly, as the credits rolled, to the rousing accompaniment of an Irish folk-rock version of "I Can't Help Falling in Love With You". I admit I felt the undertow of missing. In the real world, of course, Sharon's baby would cause anguish, not celebration; the Curley children would be out joy-riding and doing crack. But on the other hand, who's got time for objections like that? "Get out of the way, ya doxy bollocks!" yelled Dessey, as an unlucky pedestrian hesitated hilariously in his path. With the drastically variable *Screen Two* spring season coming to such a glorious close, it was as good an epigraph as any.

LYNNE TRUSS

ENJOY EASTER DAY WITH 'THE TIMES' AND THE BRAINS TRUST

Give your brain a treat

Here's your chance to discover at first-hand details about *The Times* World Chess Championship, meet some of the world's great mental athletes, and enjoy a traditional Easter Day lunch at Simpson's-in-the-Strand, the London mecca for "warriors of the mind".

Raymond Keene, the chess grandmaster and *Times* correspondent, will talk about the behind-the-scenes battles to stage the world chess championship in London between the title holder, Russia's Gary Kasparov, and Britain's Nigel Short; give his analysis of how Short may fare; and give details of how readers can "play" the contestants. He will also invite guests to challenge him in simultaneous games.

The event is organised in association with The Brain Trust, a charitable organisation dedicated to research and dissemination of knowledge about learning and the brain, and includes the announcement of the trust's "Brain of the Year" award winners.

The nominees for the award are: Bobby Fischer, the American chess champion; William Gates, founder of Microsoft; Stephen Hawking; Gary Kasparov; Nigel Kennedy; Dominic O'Brien, the first World Memory Champion; Judith Polgar, at 15 the youngest ever chess grandmaster; Carl Sagan, the American astronomer royal; Ganesha Sitampalan, the 13-year-old maths genius; and Dr Marion Tinsley, the World Draughts Champion.

● Dominic O'Brien, who has memorised all 7,000 answers to the new Trivial Pursuits, and holds the world record of 55.64 seconds for the perfect memorisation of a 52-deck

pack of cards, will be joining Sunday's event, and among the other celebrities will be: ● Tony Buzan, founder of The Brain Trust, originator of "Mind Maps" and author of the best-selling book *Use Your Head* (BBC). He will tell how families can develop their own family genius, and play speed chess with 17-year-old Tracy Thompson, the leading female player in *The Times* British Schools Chess Championship. ● Philip Bond, who can memorise more than 3,000 digits of the number pi, and also define the whereabouts of a sequence of any five numbers in the 3,000 digits. ● Julian Simpole, an international chess grandmaster, who will challenge other players on the day.

In addition to meeting, and maybe testing your skills against the experts there, you and your family can enjoy a Simpson's Easter Day lunch, which will be preceded by an appropriate "Brain Teaser" cocktail.

THE BRAINS DAY MENU
(including half-carafe of wine per person)
Chicken and egg noodle soup

Simpson's famous roast rib of beef, with Yorkshire pudding, spring greens, roast potatoes and horseradish sauce

College pie

Coffee

● The cost to *Times* readers and their families, including lunch with wine, is £30 per person (children £15).

If you would like to join *The Times* Brains Day lunch at Simpson's-in-the-Strand, please...
PHONE 071-704 9941
Early application is advisable

Country parson and Welsh nationalist, the distinguished poet R. S. Thomas has just turned 80. Derwent May reviews his life's work

Drystone verses by a bleak bard

The *Collected Poems* of R. S. Thomas come in a chunky, white-jacketed book, like a rock from one of the drystone walls on the bleak hillsides he is always writing about. This Welsh parson-poet has just celebrated his 80th birthday, and the book contains practically all the 500 or so poems he has published over the last 50 years.

It is an odd experience reading them through. They are like a long, rumbling grumble about Wales, the Welsh and himself. Early on, he invented a character called Prytherch, an ignorant Welsh peasant, who appears in many poems. Unlike Evans, the mean-minded but crafty Welsh townsman that Kingsley Amis invented for some of his poems, Prytherch is not exactly a barrel of laughs. Apart from the distant crackle of dry irony, there is hardly a joke in 500 pages. Thomas tries to write about Prytherch, but for much of the time he is really writing about himself. Sometimes he presents Prytherch as a pathetic figure, stupid, unimaginative, unable even to grasp the spiritual problems that plague the poet. When he contemplates Prytherch as an old man, he sympathises

but also seems to be gloating a bit over the work of "time's geometry" on Prytherch's face. Thomas admits to his own "slow charity" and "willed gentleness".

However in other poems Prytherch becomes a symbol of a lost Wales — lost, especially, to Thomas. Now Prytherch's heart "observes a green calendar" and he has nature's lore green on his tongue, whereas the unhappy poet's mind draws him onward "blind with the world's dust". Some poems sketch out an even worse situation, where Thomas finds himself in "the new world, ugly and evil" but all that Prytherch and the Welsh countryside have to offer is "the old lie of green places".

Of course, a poet can make something of any theme, realistic or mythical, sympathetic or repellent, and I think one's discontentment with Thomas's attitudes is, in part at least, due to a slackness in his treatment of them. He does not do enough to convert them from melancholy rumination into living drama. Many of the poems begin arrestingly

enough, but they often fall back on cliché and tired metaphor. The phrases I have already quoted reflect that, and there are many more cases of "the heart's flower withering at the root" and "loveliness growing, where might have been truth's bitter berries". The poems go dead in places like this.

Nor do they always have a rhythm to lift them. In too many of them, the lines are more like furrows than lines of verse — the eye goes backwards and forwards along them as monotonously as Prytherch's plough in the stony fields.

One is the more aware of this when a good, shapely poem leaps from the pages.



COLLECTED POEMS
1945-1990
By R. S. Thomas
Dent, £25

An example in point is "Trump". Here again, Thomas contrasts his own fate with that of another man, but now the rhythms, the unexpectedly placed rhymes and the simple, exact detail bring both men, the tramp and the clergyman, to life:

I sleep in my bed,
He sleeps in the old
Dead leaves of a
ditch.

My dreams are
haunted:
Are his dreams rich?
If I wake early,
He wakes cold.

Unfortunately, Thomas's feelings have also led him into a rather acid, anti-English nationalism, and he has publicly supported the extremists who have been setting fire to English people's cottages.

What I think he does not realise is that his poems all too clearly reveal the mediocre origins of most modern nationalism, in many countries besides his own. They lie in a disgruntlement with oneself that is converted into a complaint about the state of one's country, then the adoption of a second-rate myth about that country's superior past, and finally the blaming of another people for the supposed decline.

In his poems of the last 20 years or so, this Anglican clergyman has written much more about his religious feelings. These are not very happy poems, either, but the challenge has produced some interesting, teasing work. He comes back often to a paradox: that his sense of the absence of God is what leads him to a belief in God's presence. Even so, he addresses God "without hope of a reply":

What resource have I
other than the emptiness without him
of my whole
being, a vacuum he may not abhor?

There are poems here and there on other subjects, including some inspired by paintings. One of the earliest of these, "Woman Combing", which describes a picture by Degas, is as beautiful as anything Thomas has written:

So the hair, too,
can be played?
She lets it down
and combs a sonata
from it: brown cello
of hair: with the arm
bowing.

Yet most of the later ones in this series, on other French painters, slip into dull abstractions.

Perhaps Thomas has simply written too many poems, without working hard enough on most of them. Philip Larkin, as has been said very plain lately, could be as grumpy and offensive as any man — but he never published a poem until he was sure he had it right, and the handful of poems that met this test take us unflinchingly into a world of "pure serene". Thomas would serve posterity best by doing the opposite of most poets, and following his *Collected Poems* with a "Selected Poems". But it would have to be a slim volume.

Nice table talk of Citizen Welles

Mark Le Fanu

THIS IS ORSON WELLES
By Orson Welles
and Peter Bogdanovich
Edited by Jonathan
Rosenbaum
HarperCollins, £20

The authorship of this book looks at first sight as if it could do with some explanation. "By Orson Welles & Peter Bogdanovich" announces the cover, in large letters. But didn't Orson Welles die in 1985? So how come he has written a new book? As for Bogdanovich (the co-author) — he is known to be an interviewer of genius. But do his skills extend to contact beyond the grave?

It soon turns out that this really is a new book, and an important one, not a work of chicanery or necromancy. *This Is Orson Welles* is the record, in some detail, of a series of conversations that took place between Bogdanovich and the film director in different countries over a ten-year period from the mid-sixties until 1975. Subsequently the tapes holding the conversation were lost — only to turn up again in the last year or so, since when they have been edited and trimmed by a third party, Jonathan Rosenbaum (a film critic and Welles-admirer), who has performed the task with discretion and scholarship.

The first thing to confirm is that the conversations are of high quality, and that they take in all aspects of the artist's career. Welles was a magnificent talker — as viewers of the BBC's *Arena* a few years ago, will remember. But with Bogdanovich, the great actor-director seems to excel even his own exacting standards of discrimination.

So often books of movie interviews are lazy, uninteresting affairs. In this one, on the contrary, you get a perpetual sense of the joy Welles takes in putting things properly. Again and again one sees the director stretching out his hand to touch the interviewer on the sleeve: "No, no, Peter, that's not quite what I mean. This is the way the matter ought to be looked at."

There is friendliness in these

qualifications, as well as irony, and a twinkle in the eye. The book has life because it bears witness to a genuine meeting between minds, and the birth of a friendship. Bogdanovich for his part is a terrier-like interviewer with an encyclopaedic knowledge of cinema. Respect for his subject does not put him off asking the awkward questions, and sticking with them. One of the most interesting passages in the book occurs when Bogdanovich insists, at first tactfully, and then less tactfully, that, alone among Welles's films, *The Trial* — his 1962 version of the Kafka novel — fails on the basic level of entertainment.

Now it happens that the movie in question is one for which Welles has a particular liking — he says it is one of his most "personal films", the one that got nearest to defining his sense of the congruence between cinema and dreaming. So it is wonderful, and slightly awe-inspiring, to witness the delicacy with which Welles takes up Bogdanovich's challenge, only to deepen it philosophically, and at the same time allowing the reader to glimpse that he is moved by the accusation, which causes him hurt as it would hurt any artist. The whole passage, of five or six pages, goes into the relationship between art and populism with an unsurpassed clarity.

What above all comes across in this book is its focus on the director's perfectionism: the extraordinary

pains which are required in order that a film-maker should, even approximately, approach the vision he has on paper. There is a certain image of Welles as a lazy fellow, given to good dinners and fat cigars. Certainly, in his heyday he lived like a prince. (Incidentally, it was a distinct part of his princeliness to share his fortune, among friends, with immense generosity.)

More to the point, however, are the hours of back-breaking toil spent cajoling producers, enthusing collaborators, conducting rehearsals in four different places at once, and then, when it came to it (as it so often did) staying up all night and painting the wretched scenery himself. All real art is penitential for the person who is producing it; but reading this book one comes to feel that the film-director's profession — which must encompass so many trades and rise above so many anxieties (above all, financial ones) — is the most penitential of the lot.

Welles made 13 films in his career, and started, but never finished, three more. Six of the films in question — *Citizen Kane*, *The Magnificent Ambersons*, *The Lady from Shanghai*, *Othello*, *Touch of Evil* and *Chimes at Midnight* — deserve the accolade of masterpiece (without using the term too promiscuously). Each of these films, with the exception of *Citizen Kane*, was interfered with to a greater or lesser degree by Welles's producers and backers. The book gives us a precious glimpse of how these films might have been, had they succeeded in being released according to the director's private wishes.

Yet surely one must be thankful for what he did achieve. The passing years make it plainer (and this book confirms the judgment) that, even in the form in which they have come down to us, Welles's films are among the most dashing of our century.



He directed six of the most dashing films of the century: Orson Welles in *The Southern Star* (1969)

Heart of goldfish

Judy Goodkin

SWIMMING WITH
DOLPHINS
By Erin Pizzey
HarperCollins, £15.99

Here is the thin tale of 37-year-old Pandora, scarred in childhood by the trauma of seeing her adored pet goldfish flushed into the sewers by her unfeeling mother, and who subsequently embraces scuba diving as a way of getting that lost fishness back into her life.

Defeated by a succession of disastrous relationships, during which she has suffered every conceivable indignity and learnt nothing, Pandora flees to a remote Caribbean island, still clutching her American Express card, to "find herself". Predictably, the earthy islanders, with their ancient magic and wise aphorisms, provide all the answers. When Pandora leaves the island, she is healed and ready for a brilliant new future as a social worker in a shelter for battered women.

Pieced together from Erin Pizzey's experiences with battered wives in the seventies, Pandora may be the consummate victim, but there is nothing endearing either in her feebleness or in her recovery. Pizzey fails to provide her damaged heroine with one truly admirable woman on whom to model herself. The only memorable caricature in the entire novel is Pandora's wicked mother, who spits her venom with some real feeling. If there is one saving grace to be found in this shallow novel, it must be the charged eroticism of its cooking scenes, in which simple vegetables become sexual shorthand, shimmering with unexploded promise.

THIS WEEK'S OFFERS

THE winner of the Broadway competition was Mrs Cooper of Coventry. She correctly stated that the other Willy Russell play for the BARTA award was *Shirley Valentine*, that *Blood Brothers* is set in Liverpool and that Bill Kenwright supports Everton football club.

The Theatre Club has arranged tickets for the London production of *Blood Brothers* at the Phoenix Theatre between April 5 and 22 for £15. Tel: 071-413 1412.

This is the last chance for members to buy tickets for the 1993 Laurence Olivier Awards. The glittering prizes of British theatre will be presented at the Dominion Theatre on Sunday April 18 and members can attend the ceremony. Tickets are £25, £20 and £12.50. Tel: 071-413 1412.

● LONDON
Don't Dress for Dinner by Marc Camoletti. Duchess Theatre, April 5-29. Three tickets for the price of one. The offer is available Monday to Thursday and Saturday matinee on £18.50 and £15 tickets. Tel: 071-494 5075.

Total Eclipse by Christopher Hampton. Greenwich Theatre, April 22-24, 26, at 7.45pm and April 24, 23.00pm. A study of the relationship between two 19th-century French poets, Rimbaud and Verlaine. Members can buy two tickets for the price of one. Tel: 081-858 7755.

● NORTHAMPTON
Shadowlands by William Nicholson. Royal Theatre, May 7, 7.30pm. The story of the unlikely

THE THEATRE CLUB

love between C.S. Lewis and American poet Joy Davidman. Members will get a glass of wine in the interval and can take part in a discussion with members of the cast after the show for £10.50. Tel: 0604 325333. This offer is not available through the Club line.

To book for any of this week's offers, telephone the Theatre Club on 071-413 1412, open 24 hours a day, or call the listed theatre during normal box office hours. You can also use the Club's booking line for other West End productions. A service charge may be levied for some shows.

To join the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, payable to The Theatre Club, with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, PO Box 490, London E1 9DW or telephone the Club booking number on 071-413 1412 using your credit card. For general inquiries please telephone 071-387 9673.

For up to date information on future events — including shows, rock and pop concerts, outdoor spectacles and even major sporting events — telephone the Theatre Club's News Information Service on 0891 555590. Calls cost 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p at other times.

Psychic Norfolk, magic Devon

Christina Koning

REMEMBRANCE
DAY

By Brian Aldiss
HarperCollins, £14.99

IN THE PLACE OF
FALLEN LEAVES

By Tim Pears
Hamish Hamilton, £14.99

Science fiction is a form better suited to the exploration of ideas and the delineation of alternative realities than to the portrayal of character and the presentation of actuality. As a writer of science fiction and author of a history of the genre, Brian Aldiss is of course adept at making the unfamiliar real; he is less convincing when he attempts to invest familiar reality with strangeness.

His latest novel begins with a conversation between an American professor and a visiting English academic about how the past overshadows and determines historical events. According to this theory, brainchild of the significantly named Professor Hengist M. Embry, certain countries are "ruled by... memories of disaster", which are both recalled and prefigured (it is never entirely clear which) in the minds of certain psychic individuals. Hengist announces his intention of continuing his research, with reference to an IRA atrocity which took place some years before, in the Norfolk seaside town of Great Yarmouth.

The narrative shifts, accordingly, to Norfolk in 1986. Ray

Tebbutt is a failed businessman turned market gardener; his wife Ruby and her aged mother Agnes live a hand-to-mouth existence, enlivened only by quarrels about money and by visits from the couple's daughter, Jennifer. Jennifer has a boyfriend named Vack, a sinister Czech, visiting Britain on unspecified government business.

Just how sinister Vack is does not emerge until the next section of the book, which is set in Prague. Here, as in the earlier episodes describing life in Britain, the picture painted is a depressing one. Poverty and unemployment are widespread, and corruption is rife. Vack, last seen holding forth about Mrs Thatcher, is revealed as an agent of the secret police, setting up a deal with

an even more sinister Irishman named Driscoll.

It is at this point in the novel that things become really complicated. For no apparent reason, the narrative undergoes another time-shift, to 1981, and a new set of characters is brought into play. One of these, the wealthy but effete Dominic Mayor, suffers from bizarre hallucinations — memories of a past he can never have actually experienced — and it is these which, presumably, are intended to provide a link between the book's earlier episodes and what is to follow.

But if this is the author's intention, it is never developed. Instead, this section of the book is frittered away in a series of tiresome elliptical conversations between Mayor and his hysterical wife, Fendela. The characterisation becomes thin to the point of extinction and some of the writing is just plain bad. It is almost a relief to return to the dour Tebbutt family, busy packing their bags for a holiday in Great Yarmouth.

By this time, it is hard to resist a feeling of satisfaction when the catastrophe which has been looming over the whole book actually occurs.

Even so, it seems in rather poor taste to have Hengist M. Embry reappear at this point to say that the characters who become victims of the IRA bomb were actually motivated by an unconscious death-wish into contriving their own murder.

If Aldiss's novel fails in its attempt to inject an element of the paranormal into everyday reality, Tim Pears's first novel comes close to succeeding. The book is set in a magic-realist Devon teeming with frogs, cackling geese, fecund women and eccentric grandparents, and has the by-now familiar pubescent narrator to bring a touch of adolescent brooding to the proceedings.

Although the 1984 miners' strike is glimpsed at one point in the background, this is not a condition-of-England novel; indeed, Pears seems to take a perverse pleasure in making his narrative as timelessly unrealistic as possible. It is a brave attempt to transform the English landscape into South America, using the fortuitous excuse of an epic heatwave in order to do so. But for all its lush evocation of place, his book lacks the political edge of its Latin American models.

perception and style make it more than a mere curiosity.

ALDOUS HUXLEY
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BEDFORD was a friend of Huxley from 1930, at a time when *Brave New World* was gestating in his fertile brain, and though she is a wholly sympathetic, even partisan, biographer, she is also scrupulously devoted to fact. Now in one volume, her 20-year-old study is unlikely to be bettered.

● Contributors: Sue Gee, Alexander Ross, Brian Morton

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EDUCATION

Lucy Hodges finds that America is rethinking pupil testing, just as British teachers and governors wrestle with educational reforms

Multiple-choice fails the test

British parents awaiting the introduction of pencil-and-paper testing in schools might like to know that the Americans are beginning to move in the opposite direction — away from simple tests and towards more sophisticated assessment.

So jaded is the United States with its batteries of multiple-choice tests, taken by children at different stages in their school careers, that a new method of measuring children is gaining ground. Known as "performance assessment", it aims to gauge what children can do with their knowledge, whether they can think through problems and analyse material.

Americans are the world's testing experts. According to one estimate, students in the States devote 20 million school days to taking 127 million separate tests a year. One of the first things an American six-year-old learns is to tick off boxes or circle the answers in multiple-choice tests.

These tests are good at measuring quickly and cheaply whether students have learnt basic facts or understood a point. They are also useful in making quick comparisons between children, or between schools and school districts.

However, according to Todd Endo, a policy analyst with the National Education Association, America's biggest teaching union,

they are narrowly based. "They can't test very important things, such as writing, or can they really assess complex thinking."

This might not matter if the test results were not taken seriously. But they are. Newspapers publish the results of individual schools, showing how they rank in areas such as mathematics and reading. This puts pressure on principals and teachers, because nobody relishes being bottom of the league table.

According to the critics, it has led to teaching being dominated by

More importantly, the country is not educating its people to think or to be creative. This is regarded as crucial today, when America is anxious about losing out to the Japanese or Koreans in the race for economic growth. Multiple-choice tests are seen as impeding reform in schools, so some states have begun to abolish them.

Maryland replaced its tests of basic skills two years ago with "performance assessment". Children aged eight, ten and 13 have been given new tests in reading, language/arts, mathematics, science and social studies. These tests are administered over one week, and children spend up to two hours daily answering test questions.

In reading, for example, instead of ticking off boxes, they are required to answer questions in writing. In mathematics, they are asked to solve problems.

But the introduction of these tests has been a disaster, according to Dr Jim Myerberg, director of the division of instructional evaluation and testing in one of Maryland's counties. Results of the first batch of tests, taken in May 1991, were not released until March 1992.

"The scores were so bad that it was hard to believe they were valid," says Dr Myerberg. "The state spent a lot of time trying to figure out what the results meant."

'This has had nothing to do with children or learning. They are lost in this process'

these tests. The result is that pupils do not read books and do not write; instead, they read carefully chosen paragraphs and answer questions about them. In mathematics, where the tests concentrate on competence in numeracy, the teaching focuses on basic skills such as addition and multiplication.

Instant gratification

The winter term has ended. The teachers' Easter conferences loom. John Patten, the education secretary, appears on television with his upbeat progress report to open the Conservatives' campaign for the local government elections. Four and a half years after the Education Reform Act received the Royal Assent, it is time for stock-taking.

The first thing to say is that it is only four and a half years. Radical changes will take 15-20 years to settle down. The government believes that they can transform expectations and raise standards all round — but not until the schools have passed through the refining fire of radical reform.

It is a classic dilemma in educational policy. Politicians need quick results, but educational reform takes a generation. So there is an irresistible temptation to dig up the plant to check that its roots are growing. The government exaggerates the evidence of success; opponents exaggerate the evidence of failure, when what is needed is more patience and flexibility.

The latest report from the school inspectors on grant-maintained schools is a case in point. Most of the schools examined had only been grant-maintained for a very short time. The inspectors solemnly declared that they could find no evidence of improvement (or deterioration). What did they expect? It

Neither side will give the national curriculum time to prove itself

will take decades to assess the full consequences of opting out.

More encouraging is the consensus which is emerging about the primary school curriculum. David Paskall, the retiring chairman of the National Curriculum Council, has joined those who are saying the primary curriculum is heavily overloaded. This was because nobody took an overview of the whole while the subject parts were being assembled. This was the job of the National Curriculum Council, but ministers refused to let them do it, for fear it might slow things up.

Mr Paskall implied an overloading of nearly 50 per cent. This is reflected in the tests and assessments which teachers will be forced to teach to. The official answer is a rolling review, which will gradually thin out the content at regular intervals — leaving the schools in a permanent state of uncertainty. Others, such as Professor Jim Campbell, want a five-year moratorium to let the schools make their own compromises. Such an approach cannot easily be squared with the government's

obsession with league tables based on comparable tests. More fundamental are the criticisms put forward by Lord Skidelsky, the distinguished historian, who is a prominent member of the NCC and will be a leading light in the new School Curriculum and Assessment Authority. He wants to go back to square one and scrap the assessment model devised in the autumn of 1987, on which the whole paraphernalia of curriculum prescription is based. The form in which the attainment targets and "profile components" have to be expressed in order to maintain the fiction of ten ascending levels in each subject is coming under strong attack. It looks as if the chickens which Kenneth Baker let out in reckless haste five years ago are coming home to roost.

Two positive footnotes: Sir Geoffrey Holland, the new permanent secretary at the Department for Education is a problem solver, not a Sir Humphrey. He won't let things drift. And Sir Ron Dearing, who takes charge at the SCAA, is a tough pragmatist, not an ideologue like Lord Griffiths or David Paskall. The two men he replaces, Has the penny dropped? Has John Patten at last realised that he needs friends among the education professionals as well as friends in Number Ten?

STUART MACLURE



School's out: Americans are losing faith in the ability of the education system to provide the skills the country needs to compete

Last year's tests, taken in the second year of the new testing, have not yet been released. They are due to be published in May, more than a year after they were taken. Similar problems have arisen again. But there have been new problems, too. Last year the science tests were taken for the first time, and they involved experiments. There were particular difficulties with the science experiment for

eight-year-olds, which required children to analyse the absorption rate of three types of soil. "The problem was the soil was too sticky," Dr Myerberg says. "It didn't pour. Instead, it stuck to the containers. In addition, things got split, so there was mud all over desks and floors."

This meant the experiment did not work, and that teachers spent a lot of time fretting about dirty

floors. "The problem is that performance assessment is new," Dr Myerberg says. "Nobody has done this before."

All of which goes to show how difficult it is to introduce new tests, particularly from the top down. George Madaus, founder of the Centre for the Study of Testing, Evaluation and Educational Policy at Boston University, says that performance assessment works well when

it is introduced by teachers in an institution. "But when it is used from the top down, it can be extremely disruptive and costly, and it is difficult to get the comparability you get with other kinds of exams."

Whatever the difficulties, America will doubtless adopt the changes. But the lesson is that switching to new testing is an arduous business, as the British have discovered, too.

Loyal opposition

At one school, the governors support their teachers before the law

the question with the governors — "all hard-headed business people" — after being approached by distressed members of his English staff. "They said that they had looked at the tests, and not only were they desultory, but they were not even testing the national curriculum," he says.

The problem was first discussed at two meetings of the governors' curriculum committee, which could see no correlation between the curriculum and the tests based on rote learning and comprehension, and found the marking system to be time-consuming and inequitable. The matter was then discussed at three full governors' meetings, and it was finally decided to instruct the English staff and the head not to carry out the tests.

Mr Styles stresses that the governors took a clear decision to instruct the staff not to carry out the tests and that it was not a question of simply approving proposals from the head or staff. "The unanimous decision was freely arrived at, and to suggest anything else would be an insult to our governors. Nobody

feels comfortable about defying the law, and we do so reluctantly. We would have been very content if the Secretary of State had not put us in this position."

Not all heads are happy with the "instructions" being handed down by the Prince William governors. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Headteachers, says: "On the face of it, this is a neat solution, but we do not believe that governors should direct heads or staff as this has serious implications for other areas of authority. We are advising our members to dissuade governors who want to make directions."

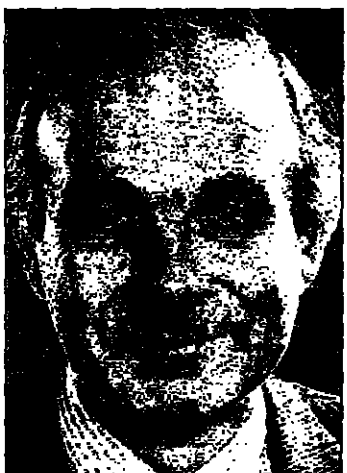
Prince William will carry out the legally required maths and science tests but will set their own English ones. Teachers have also been asked to set some of the official questions in classwork, so that the results can be set against the school tests to form a critique of Key Stage 3 assessment to be considered by the governors later in the year.

There has so far been a "very impressive" silence from the education department, says Mr Styles who is now waiting to see what, if any, steps will be taken against the governors. The decision has been explained in a detailed letter to parents, who have been invited to a meeting at the school to discuss the governors' decision.

DAVID TYTLER



John Patten: boasting success



David Hart: a neat solution?

Pitfalls of parental choice in real world

Scotland's open enrolment teaches lessons England has yet to learn

The evidence from a decade of open enrolment in Scotland suggests that parental choice has led to an inefficient use of resources, widening disparities between schools, increased social segregation and threats to equality of educational opportunity.

The degree of parental choice of schools introduced to England and Wales five years ago has existed in Scotland since the early 1980s. In that time the number of "placing requests" (for an alternative to the designated school) has increased by about 50 per cent. In many cities, 20-25 per cent of pupils are now the subject of such requests, and in some areas the proportion tops 50 per cent.

Parents have favoured schools with above-average attainment levels whose pupils are from higher socio-economic backgrounds, but they find it difficult to gauge the "added value" that a school would contribute to their child's examination performance. Consequently, parents' choices only marginally benefited their children in terms of better examination results.

Moreover, the gains for some pupils are associated with high costs for others (in particular pupils at schools in deprived areas, which lose a substantial number of pupils) and the system as a whole. Although there is no *a priori* reason why parental choice should increase social segregation, the evidence suggests it does and that this is likely to result in greater inequalities in attainment. Since expenditure per pupil is much higher in a school with a small roll than a school with a large one, the loss of pupils from some schools has led to inefficiency. It has also produced marked differences between schools, since those which lost pupils also lost staff and resources, and



Kids' stuff: children like these at a Scottish primary school are in a system that has winners and losers.

could no longer offer comparable educational opportunities.

In Scotland, parental choice has already resulted in the re-emergence of something resembling a two-tier system of secondary schooling in a number of small big cities. The existence of a small number of rump schools located in the most deprived areas of the big cities is clearly a serious cause for concern.

Although there have obviously been winners as well as losers from the Scottish legislation, parental choice appears to have been a "negative sum" game in which the gains achieved by some pupils have been more than offset by the losses incurred by others — by and large,

the ones who could least afford to lose out — and by the community as a whole.

A vital question is whether the impact of parental choice of school in England and Wales in the 1990s will resemble that in Scotland in the 1980s. Unfortunately, there are several grounds for thinking it will be considerably more problematic. First, there is less of a tradition of collectivism in England than in Scotland and, for this reason alone, the incidence of parental choice in English urban areas will probably turn out to be higher than in Scotland.

The existence of much larger ethnic minority populations in many English cities raises the prospect of

ethnic segregation on a scale that simply could not exist in Scotland. In addition, more than 300 schools in England have already opted out of local authority control while none in Scotland has so far.

It does not follow from these arguments that parents should be deprived of their rights to express a preference. However, a better balance between the right of parents to choose schools for their children and the duties of education authorities to promote the education of all children is clearly needed.

As a prerequisite, the fiction that all primary and comprehensive secondary schools provide identical educational opportunities should be

abandoned. Nor should we expect them to do so. Over and above the common core curriculum, schools should be encouraged to develop particular curricular strengths.

To ensure the widest possible access to a range of schools with different characteristics, school catchment areas should be abolished. They constitute the major source of inequality in educational attainment at school level and thus the major obstacle to equality of status and parity of esteem between schools.

Much more thought needs to be given to the interests which the right of school choice is trying to protect. At present, the legislation seeks only to protect parents' interests in choice. However, since parents act as agents of their children but are not all equally effective, children's interests need to be considered directly.

Instead of providing an escape route for a minority of parents who do not wish their children to attend the local (catchment area) school, legislation would seek to enhance the interests of all children by setting up procedures for assessing their needs and identifying the schools at which they are most likely to thrive, and which would be best suited to their particular talents and personalities.

A greater measure of protection would be given to schools which have lost pupils and to the pupils who attend these schools. One way of achieving this would be to enable education authorities to set limits on the admission of pupils to schools which have gained pupils where there are good reasons for so doing.

MICHAEL ADLER

●The author's report, *An alternative approach to parental choice*, is published today by the National Commission on Education.

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19	Bank of Switzerland	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
20	Bank of Austria	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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23	Bank of Hungary	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
24	Bank of Poland	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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18	Samsung	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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23	Samsung	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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6	Hyundai	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Samsung	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
8	LG	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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11	Hyundai	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
12	Samsung	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
13	LG	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
14	SK	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
15	Daewoo	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
16	Hyundai	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
17	Samsung	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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20	Daewoo	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
21	Hyundai	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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25	Daewoo	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
26	Hyundai	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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29	SK	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
30	Daewoo	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

Capitalisation, week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 29. Dealings and April 16. Contango day April 10. Settlement day April 26. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices reported are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's price, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Global warming sends cold shivers through insurers

Violent weather could destroy the reinsurance market and leave the public uninsured against natural catastrophes.

Sarah Bagnall writes

World weather patterns are changing dramatically, triggering a string of natural disasters and forcing the insurance industry to take harsh remedial action to stave off a crippling flood of losses. The recent storms that ripped through America, leaving more than 100 dead and wreaking havoc from Cuba to Quebec, are unlikely to cost as much as earlier hurricanes. But they have worried insurers.

Later this week, Sun Alliance, one of Britain's strongest composite insurers, is expected to reveal, in its figures for 1992, losses from Hurricane Andrew, which swept through the Bahamas, southern Florida and the Gulf of Mexico before blowing itself out in Louisiana. It resulted in the biggest claim the insurance industry has ever faced.

Several rivals have already announced losses from the hurricane, which has cost more than \$17 billion—a figure that is still rising. Last month, General Accident, for example, disclosed worse than expected losses of £65 million.

One Lloyd's underwriter said: "We are living in a much more dangerous climate. There is no doubt that global warming is taking place, causing much stronger and much more frequent hurricanes."

This view is shared by Jeremy Leggett, a scientific director at Greenpeace, who said: "A globally warmer atmosphere is expected to herald stronger and more frequent windstorms, storm surges, rising seas, floods, droughts, increased subsidence following soil shrinkage on clay substrates, and many more unpleasant impacts."

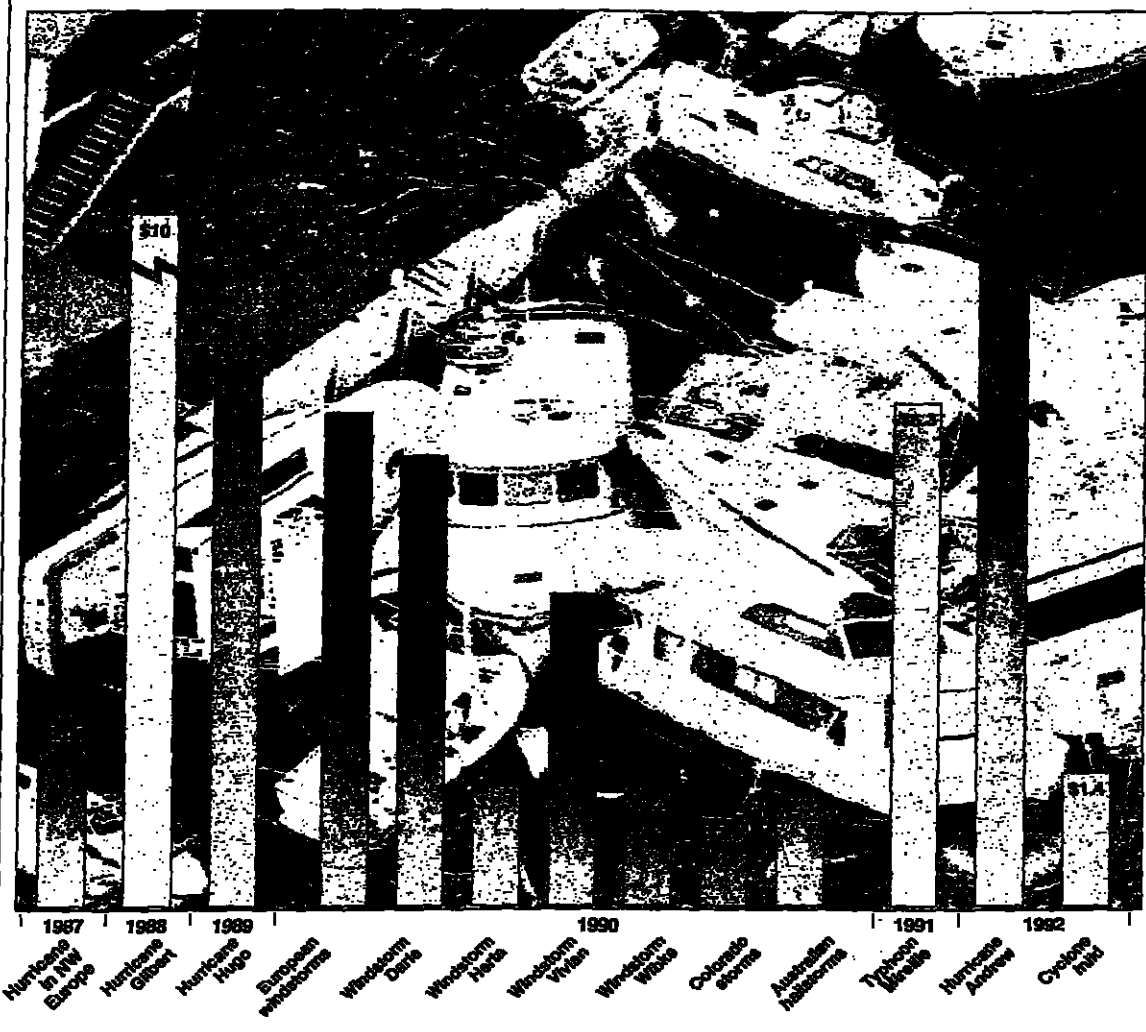
Signs of climate change are evident. Over the past 20 years, the average snowfall over the northern hemisphere has fallen 8 per cent and lake temperatures in Canada have increased 2 degrees Celsius. Mountain glaciers are in retreat, the Arctic ice-cap is declining, California is in its seventh successive year of drought, southeast England is in its fifth and southern Africa is in the grip of the worst drought in living memory. Dr Leggett noted in recent research.

The costs to insurers from windstorms and other natural catastrophes have run into tens of billions of dollars, and the bulk of disasters have been in the past six years. In January 1987, Siberian winds howled across Europe, submerging Georgia in floods, followed in October by severe windstorms in the UK, which cost British insurers £2 billion, of which £430 million was reinsurance cover.

Between 1966 and 1987, there were no catastrophes that caused losses in excess of \$1 billion. Of the 15 catastrophes that have cost more than \$1 billion each since 1987, ten were windstorms, which accounted for more than 85 per cent of the combined total loss of \$53 billion.

These losses have sent cold shivers through the insurance industry, leading to a massive pricing reaction. George Lloyd-Roberts, a leading Lloyd's underwriter, said premiums have been hiked up to reflect the crippling losses suffered in recent years while academic evidence is triggering further upward shifts. "However, we don't yet know whether this is a short-term blip in weather patterns or is of a longer-term nature," he added.

CATASTROPHE LOSSES EXCEEDING \$1 BILLION



While academics like Dr Leggett argue that the changes are permanent, others point to evidence from the past 100 years, which shows two or three similar blips in European weather patterns. However, whatever the nature of the changes, the increased occurrence of catastrophes has forced reinsurers to leave the market in their droves.

The latest fall out from the market is NW Re, a three-way joint venture between Norwich Union, Winterthur, of Sweden, and Chiyoda, of Japan, which has been a big market player. NW was driven out because of the huge losses it made as a result of Cyclone Iniki, which cost the worldwide insurance industry more than \$1.4 billion, and Hurricane Andrew. NW's move follows the departure of a string of other insurers, including English & American and the reinsurance arms of Cigna, of the US, and Yasuda, of Japan. As a result, the amount of catastrophe reinsurance available in the London market, which probably provides about 50 per cent of the worldwide catastrophe cover, has shrunk from an estimated \$100 billion five years ago to its present level of between \$35 billion and \$50 billion.

This sharp contraction is making itself felt. Insurers are unable to lay their hands on as much reinsurance as they want and, as a result, many companies are being left with inadequate catastrophe cover. Five years ago, companies could pick up cover for \$500 million of losses. Now, they are lucky if they can get cover for more than \$100 million.

There is worse news elsewhere. Some regions around the world are not able to lay their hands on any reinsurance at all. Earlier this year, a lament was heard from the Caribbean that interna-

tional reinsurers were shying away from the area, with the hurricane-prone region north of Trinidad and Tobago suffering the worst. The problem has surfaced because local insurers are failing to demand high enough premiums from the insured, and, as a result, they cannot afford to buy the reinsurance, the price of which has gone through the roof.

High-risk areas, such as Hawaii, Florida and the Caribbean, are thought to be suffering the most. In the Caribbean, it now costs an insurer between 50 per cent and 60 per cent of its insurance premiums to buy catastrophe cover. One underwriter said he knew of one northeast American company that was having to shell out 37 per cent of its total premiums for catastrophe cover.

Five years ago, the figure was about 10 per cent. The increased premiums were necessary to "bribe the reinsurer to do business", Mr Lloyd-Roberts said. In 1987, there were about five reinsurers covering a risk, this fell to three or four the next year, to two the year after, and in 1992, "that one would be decidedly wobbly", he added.

In order to entice the limited amount of reinsurance cover available, insurers are having to bear a bigger portion of the risk before the reinsurer's cover kicks in. That is, the level of deductibles are rocketing, resulting in the reinsurers bearing a lower amount of any losses. Because of this development, the London market's share in the losses from the recent US storms is expected to be negligible, despite estimates of total insurance losses ranging from \$600 million to \$3 billion.

The UK reinsurers are looking relaxed as they have covered only losses that exceed £3 billion. Five years ago,

they would have been in a very different predicament, covering losses in excess of, say, \$2 billion, with a resulting \$1 billion hit. Furthermore, the amount covered has fallen. The reinsurers have provided cover for \$8 billion of losses, after the \$3 billion deductible, compared with the \$16 billion layer they would have been likely to provide before 1987.

The marked contraction in reinsurance has also forced the insurers to look more closely at the risks they are underwriting. Countries such as the US are being broken down into zones of varying risk and reinsurers are picking and choosing where and how much they will cover. This is a marked change from the good old days when regions were more homogeneous.

Also, the days when insurers could subcontract the risk to reinsurers, enabling them to be ignorant of the facts, are gone. Insurers are beefing up their analysis because they are being forced to bear a bigger slice of any risk and because some believe the risk is on the rapid increase.

Dr Leggett gives a warning, however, that this may not be enough. "Healthy economies are impossible without a healthy international insurance industry. It is becoming increasingly clear that a healthy insurance industry will not be possible in a world in the grip of human-induced climate change."

"Changes in terms and premiums will only buy time for the insurance industry and unless action is taken to cut greenhouse-gas emissions, the insurers' prospects look bleak."

"Everybody is very nervous," Mr Lloyd-Roberts said. "If there is a major catastrophe this year, I think the catastrophe market could collapse."

The threat of continued violent weather patterns is real and, as a result, there is a serious possibility of the reinsurance market collapsing. The effects would be far-reaching and the ultimate result would be the unacceptable situation of the public finding itself without any insurance cover against natural catastrophes.

adopted for civil and legal purposes. But in 1752, the Julian Calendar was replaced by the Gregorian Calendar involving the omission of eleven days.

The omission of eleven days would, of course, have changed March 25 to April 6. Can my supposition be confirmed? If it is to be destroyed, may I please not be told so that I can continue to tell the story in contented ignorance.

Yours faithfully,
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From the twelfth century until the early part of the eighteenth century, the Anglican Church began the year with the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin (Lady Day) on March 25 and this practice was also

Estate agents, not homebuyers, need protection

From Mr Stephen Grundy

Sir, Sadly the Property Misrepresentations Act will sanitise estate agents' traditionally colourful remarks. The Misrepresentation Act of 1967, whilst not compensating would-be buyers for wasted trips to inspect erroneously described properties, does give actual buyers a fair measure of protection.

Most estate agents do a very difficult task very well. They invariably have an independent spirit and operate best free from the shackles of institutional control—as

many building societies have discovered to their cost. The Property Misrepresentation Act and Estate Agency Act of 1992 are burdensome and potentially bureaucratic. Estate agents do not require more regulation; rather we all require protection from the ever-growing army of regulators!

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN GRUNDY,
Flat 21,
23 West Cliff Road,
Bournemouth,
Dorset.

TEMPUS

Sterling work

THE pound is looking more robust by the day. A flurry of short position covering on Friday evening may have knocked the shine off its gains earlier in the week, but the trend in the market is still unmistakably higher.

Much of the recent rally has been caused by negative factors elsewhere. After the disappointing consumer confidence and payroll figures from America last week, Britain has one of the only western economies where most of the indicators appear to be pointing in the direction of a non-inflationary recovery.

Sterling's run is likely to be extended as Easter approaches, particularly if the Bundesbank makes another token cut in the repo money market rate, perhaps to coincide with some policy statement from the new French government on the future of the franc fort. There is still 1/2 of a point between the repo and discount rate, which gives the Bundesbank considerable flexibility without needing to loosen its fiscal stance.

If the run of British statistics due after Easter continues to suggest economic recovery,

sterling could soon reach DM2.50. This would put the government in an immediate dilemma. A stronger pound could slow, even smother, the recovery. As demand in Europe falls, British exporters need a cheap currency to capture market share, particularly since domestic demand is still so tentative.

Yet both the Chancellor, in the Budget, and Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, before a select committee last week, seemed to suggest that further rate cuts are not at the top of the agenda. The Treasury appears concerned that another rate cut could push inflation above the 4 per cent upper level of the target range. That danger would increase if the building societies carried out their threat and refused to pass on further rate cuts to mortgage borrowers.

Since Black Wednesday, the Treasury has been free in its planning of economic policy. It would have been foolish to think this could last forever. The Treasury may soon find itself trying to resist market forces again, this time from the other direction.

Westminster

THE flotation of Westminster Health Care, the nursing home operator, has tempted stage back in force after a long absence. The modest £16.6 million offer for sale has received almost 50,000 enquiries from investors who think it could match the tremendous performance of Takare, its larger rival, over the past five years.

Since Takare was floated in 1987, its shares have almost quadrupled as the market has begun to appreciate the long-term growth prospects of the nursing home market.

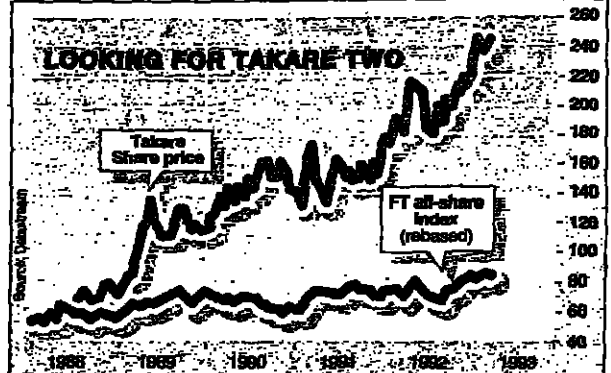
Westminster is taking maximum advantage of its predecessor's popularity. The issue price of 260p values the company at 16.7 times pro forma earnings, only 0.2 less than Takare. The asking price is a 67 per cent premium to net assets and the yield

only 1.8 per cent. Britain's ageing population gives Westminster, like its rivals, a solid opportunity for steady expansion.

The group owns and operates homes with 3,100 beds and this should increase by up to 800 a year. The only obvious risk is its dependence on income from local authorities, accounting for up to two-thirds of turnover, leaving

it exposed to changes in government policy.

Such potential demand for the issue suggests it will go to an immediate premium of up to 40p, but applicants should prepare themselves for some heavy scaling down, even a ballot. Such a gain would put the shares on a premium to Takare. After such a stag hunt, trading is likely to be more pedestrian.



BAT Industries

ONLY two weeks after it increased the price of Marlboro cigarettes, Philip Morris's decision to start a price war that it reckons may lop up to \$2 billion off earnings this year, looks bizarre. Although Marlboro's market share has fallen from 26 to 22 per cent in the past 18 months, as smokers have traded down to cheaper brands, it is still the undisputed market leader.

Morris may simply be posturing to try to ward off the imposition of a federal cigarette tax, but it seems unlikely that such a stand will count for much in Washington. Indeed, Morris's move is all the more risky in the face of such a tax, which may force cigarette makers to depress margins even further.

Morris's discounting will be costly but it could expose weaknesses at Brown & Williamson, BAT Industries' American subsidiary, where discount brands account for two-thirds of sales. B&W's

discount brands have gained market share in recent years, margins are still slim and B&W has been trying to increase prices. Since 1988, discount cigarettes have risen 15 per cent in price, while their premium rivals have increased by only half that amount.

A 40 cent cut in the pack price of Marlboro will force B&W to relinquish all this gain and more and may also hit its market share. BAT made operating profits of almost \$500 million from its American tobacco business last year. Much of this could be eroded, leading to a drop of up to a tenth, in group earnings. The stock market's worries about BAT are unlikely to abate until the group proves it can hold its own in the looming price war.

Medeva

SUCH are the strains of Medeva's acquisition-led expansion, that it had little choice about last week's £94 million rights issue. If the

group had used cash to fund the £52 million acquisition of Ribosepharm, the German cancer drug specialist, its interest cover would have been more than ten times. But the goodwill write-off would have left the group with gearing of more than 300 per cent, a figure neither investors nor bankers would have appreciated. Little wonder that last year Medeva included the £22.6 million goodwill it bought with IMS on its balance sheet as an intangible asset.

The market currently views any acquisition-driven company with suspicion, particularly when so many intangible assets are involved. But drug patents are considerably more attractive as intangibles than brand names and some of Medeva's diverse drug portfolio is registering sales growth of 50 per cent. At an ex-rights price of 226p, the shares are trading on a prospective multiple of less than 16, which looks reasonable even for such an unfashionable sector.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Limited release

A PRESS release reached me from Union Bank of Switzerland with the heart-wrenching news that UBS Phillips & Drew Securities, its stockbroking arm, is changing its name to UBS Limited. There is nothing unusual in receiving press releases, but one from Phillips & Drew is an event these days, since it adopted a policy of not speaking to the press some time ago. This was based on a belief, misplaced in my view, that the firm could give its best research to clients before being broadcast around the City and to the public by troublesome financial journalists. Clearly, a lot of thought went into choosing this imaginative new name.

Rudi Mueller, UBS executive vice-president, says: "This move is the logical extension of the careful building over five years of an integrated investment banking culture. We look forward to the further expansion of our operations and a continued commitment to quality and breadth of service." It may also help to improve the company's battered image because of its involvement in the Blue Arrow affair, and the subsequent trial, which was the most expensive ever conducted in this country.

Bumper bonus

WHEN is a golden bell not a golden bell? When it is a guaranteed bonus, a National Westminster spokesman says, NatWest paid Richard Goetz,

its new finance director, a £100,000 "once-only guaranteed bonus" in 1992, to persuade him to leave his job with Seagram Company in New York and move to London. This year, the spokesman says, he will move on to a performance-related bonus scheme like the other directors. The action bank's annual report also reveals that NatWest picked up his relocation expenses of £99,074 and provided him with benefits worth £3,838. All this, together with a £180,988 basic salary for the ten months from March 1, helped make him NatWest's highest paid director in the UK with a £383,900 total remuneration package.

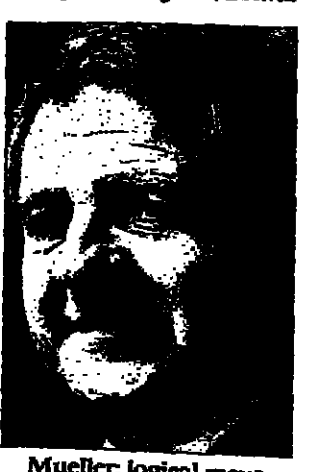
The real thing

GATT's latest country report on Bolivia, the remote tin-mining country in the Andes, looks promising at first glance. The eye-catching title, *Bolivia*

is putting its socio-economic house in order, is guaranteed to catch the reader's attention and lead him or her to expect good news from this poor quarter of Latin America. Indeed, the authors write of major macro-economic success in lowering inflation and restoring economic growth. But closer inspection reveals the findings of one Bolivian consultancy, which estimates that if the illicit cocaine trade was included in the export figures, it would account for up to 43 per cent of Bolivia's total exports. Now that is not to be sniffed at in a struggling economy.

Turning to chicken

IT LOOKS as if Julian Jacobson, the former managing director of Kidder Peabody International, is about to make his long-awaited return to the City. Jacobson, who earned a great deal of respect from the City during his stay at KPI, surprised everyone with his decision to take early retirement. Many of his close friends took the view, quite rightly, that he was merely looking for a change of direction in his career. Speculation intensified and there were claims that he was considering opening either a restaurant or a nightclub. Now, all can be revealed. He will be making his return next month when he opens a chicken roisserie in London's Bute Street, catering for office workers in the City looking for somewhere to pick up hot food quickly and cheaply.



Mueller: logical move

MICHAEL CLARK

THE TIMES
READER OFFER

Kasparov's Winning Moves

Gary Kasparov, world champion chess player, in conversation with Brian Redhead on:

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- MANOEUVRES
- STRATEGIES
- OPPORTUNITIES
- COMBINATIONS

This interview was recorded at the Kasparov Charity Chess Challenge on 17th February 1993, at Simpsons-in-the-Strand. The video contains extracts from a selection of matches Kasparov played simultaneously against 25 teams on this unique occasion. It also includes an interview with Ray Keene, *The Times* chess correspondent.

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THE TIMES
BUSINESS

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BBC1

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- 7.00 Breakfast News (244545)
- 9.05 Attack of the Killer Tomatoes. Cartoon series (t) (752245) 9.30 Why Don't You... 7 Ideas for youngsters at a loose end (s) (56553)
- 10.00 News (Coastal, regional news and weather (530438) 10.05 Playdays (t) (744914)
- 10.30 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine (53069) 10.40 Playdays (t) (744914)
- 12.05 Pebble Mill (s) (476347)
- 12.45 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick. A live review of the morning's events (s) (143290) 12.55 Regional News and weather (37318768)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. (Coastal) Weather (80340)
- 1.30 Neighbours. (Coastal) (s) (11527485) 1.50 Eldorado (t). (Coastal) (s) (18077582)
- 2.20 Dallas. JR comes face-to-face with a grief-stricken father bent on revenge (t). (Coastal) (1433698) 3.10 Turnabout. The first of a new series of the wordpower game (s) (981367)
- 3.45 Bananaman (t) (8445834) 3.50 Chudevelon (t) (s) (5818698) 4.10 The All New Popeye Show (t) (8079489) 4.30 The Boy From Andromeda. Episode one of a six-part children's drama from New Zealand (t). (Coastal) (7637766)
- 4.55 Newsworld. A special 21st anniversary edition with work of film and special effects pioneer George Melies. (Coastal) (s) (1543489)
- 5.35 Neighbours (t). (Coastal) (s) (123630) Northern Ireland. Inside Ulster
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News with John Humphrys and Morris Stuart. (Coastal) Weather (476)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazine (376). Northern Ireland. Neighbours



- 7.00 Eldorado. (Coastal) (s) (3650)
- 7.30 Watchdog. Includes an update on the Hoover free fights fiasco. Last in the series. (Coastal) (840)
- 8.00 Rock Bottom. John Peel introduces his top ten collection of worst novelty records (revised r). (Coastal) (958)
- 9.30 Waiting For God. Amiable comedy series starring Graham Crowden and Stephanie Beacham as retirement home operators (t). (Coastal) (s) (8102)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Coastal) Regional news and weather (5653)
- 9.30 Panorama: Fair Cops. Steve Bradshaw investigates police claims that they are cleaning up their act (737414)
- 10.10 Film 93 with Barry Norman. Among the films reviewed are Leap of Faith and Body of Evidence. (493940). Northern Ireland: The Conqueror. A new series of the killing of a black youth, shot by an officer's gun (t). (Coastal) (249669). Northern Ireland: Our Roving Reporter. 10.45 Film 93 11.15 Cagney and Lacey
- 11.30 Beyond the Shadows. The second of seven short stories for Holy Week. (Coastal) (744414)
- 11.45 Germany Means Business. The first of a series of live programmes about the business world in Germany (t) (404018). Northern Ireland: 12.00 Beyond the Shadows
- 12.15am Weather (405789). Ends at 12.20. Northern Ireland (to 12.45). Germany Means Business
- 2.00-2.30 BBC Select: Computer Look (22815)

BBC2

- 7.10 Open University: The History of Mathematics (524625) 7.35 Tin. A Case Study 8.00 Breakfast News (532953) 8.15 Westminster (834214) 8.30 In the Making. Wax sculpting (2227389) 8.50 A Week to Remember (b/w) (5749143)
- 9.00 Film: Slither. Dangerously (1943, b/w) starring Lana Turner and Robert Young. Comedy directed by Wesley Ruggles (34495)
- 10.30 Film: Johnny Come Lately (1943, b/w) starring James Cagney and Grace George. Lighthearted drama directed by William K. Howard (86148308)
- 12.05 Day in the Life of a Forest Pond. The wildlife of a Finnish forest (8630834)
- 12.30 At the Deep End. Paul Heney takes part in a shopping trip (t) (s) (13225679) 1.30 Spider (t). (s) (8236330) 1.35 Better Badminton with Jake Downey (t) (1805747)
- 2.00 News (Coastal) and weather (50526765) 2.05 Northern Arts. A Sunderland glass-blower (t) (15783388) 2.15 Regional Westminster Programme (t). (s) (533989). Northern Ireland. Greening 2.45 In the Garden (t) (533940)
- 3.00 News (Coastal) and weather (50526765) 3.05 Village Praise from Powestock, Dorset (t). (Coastal) (s) (8463132) 3.40 A Week to Remember (b/w). As 3.50am (846785) 3.50 News (Coastal), regional news and weather (50526765)
- 4.00 Film: The 400 Blows. An adaptation of three French films. Directed by Jean-Pierre L  aud. Mr Knowell and Sanatorium. Directed by Ken Annakin and Harold French (81747)
- 5.30 Gardeners' World (t). (Coastal) (s) (105)
- 6.00 The Addams Family (b/w). Classic ghoulie humour (t). (Coastal) (56327)
- 6.25 DEB. Begins with Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. American comedy (s) (533933) 6.50 Channel 6. Celebrities make their own videos (s) (829221)
- 7.20 Tex Avery. Classic cartoon (567582)
- 7.30 Soundbites. Evelyn Glennie's guests are Melvyn Tan and John Harle (s) (582)



- 8.00 Horizon: Ghosts in the Dinosaur Graveyard. (Coastal) (s) See Choice (432230)
- 8.50 Lucinda Lamberton's Alphabet of Britain. E is for Graham Crowden and Stephanie Beacham as retirement home operators (t). (Coastal) (s) (8102)
- 9.00 Count Dracula. The first of Gerald Savory's two-part Gothic romance, based on Bram Stoker's classic. First shown in 1977 it stars Frank Finlay and Louis Jourdan. (Coastal) (8951969)
- 10.10 The Staggering Stories of Ferdinand de Barco. Surreal comedy series (56195)
- 10.30 Newsnight with Sue Cameron (841476)
- 11.15 The 12th Hour. Includes a new series of Suzanne Vega (s) (829234) 11.55 Weather (817921)
- 12.00-12.55am Ancient Athens: The Theatre and the State. Fifth-century Greek drama (269683)

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CHOICE

Horizon: Ghosts in the Dinosaur Graveyard BBC2, 8.00pm The graveyard lies in the Gobi desert of Mongolia. The first westerner to dig among its treasures was a real-life version of Indiana Jones called Roy Chapman Andrews. It was Andrews, in the 1920s, who discovered the first dinosaur eggs as well as complete dinosaur skeletons. More than 60 years later another American expedition followed in Andrews' footsteps. The finds may not have been so dramatic but the trip makes a lively film. Although the scientists of the 1990s have the latest hi-tech equipment at their disposal, the mere sight of these prehistoric beasts as blown gaskets and ruptured petrol tanks. At the same time their digging among the bones of antiquity is throwing further light on what really happened to the dinosaurs.



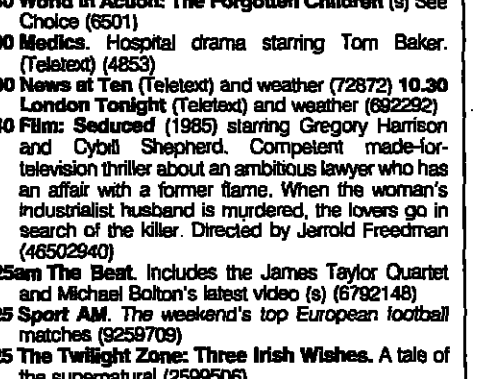
What Do You Expect - Paradise? Channel 4, 9.00pm The answer to this question, for the 400 inhabitants of Arlington House for the homeless in north London, is surely no. On the other hand it is far from being the bleak and regimented institution which makes many of the homeless prefer a cardboard box under Westminster Bridge. The place is clean and brightly lit, the food is good, the staff are friendly and well cared for. Rex Bloomstein was the first film-maker allowed in and he makes the most of his chance. The tenants are a mixed bunch. They range from the barely coherent to a couple of former public schoolboys. As someone says, people can become homeless from all backgrounds. But Arlington House is not a bad refuge.

South: Pawns and Players Channel 4, 11.00pm The horrors of martial law in Thailand are depicted in an imaginative film which is presented in the words of a disaffected soldier and draws on the analogy of chess, where the king must be protected and the pawns are expendable. Footage from army massacres, much of it distressing, points up a grim picture of a country that has been torn apart by civil war. The film is a masterpiece of electioneering. There may be less sympathy for the subjects of tonight's other film, Palestinian women who achieved notoriety in the 1970s for their hijackings and bombing raids. They include Layla Khaled, who held up a TWA jet flying to Tel Aviv. She was held in London but released after pressure on the British government from other hijackers.

World in Action: The Forgotten Children ITV, 8.30pm Seven years after the Chernobyl disaster some fifty thousand children in the area are suffering from the side-effects of radiation. There has also been a sharp increase in cases of cancer, brain damage and heart disease. The film follows Nina Rogerson from Bolton on a visit to Ukraine to see her family and talks to mothers, doctors and officials in a town 40 miles from the reactor. The Ukrainian government has the best of the situation but the economy has collapsed, inflation is running at 2,500 per cent and drugs and medical supplies to hospitals have virtually stopped. Parents of seriously ill children are forced to turn to the black market, paying the equivalent of a week's wages for a bottle of aspirin. Peter Waymark

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 GMTV. Guests include Dudley Moore (7185989) 9.25 Jeopardy! Quiz show (7528679) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (7425563)
- 10.00 Police Academy. Cartoon series based on the popular comedy film (t) (7435940)
- 10.25 This Morning. Family magazine (56467292)
- 12.10 Tots TV. Children's puppet series (s) (8736363)
- 12.30 Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (5724209)
- 1.05 London Today (Teletext) and weather (9333327)
- 1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama. (Teletext) (539143) 1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama (s) (538414)
- 2.15 Capital Woman. Anna Rice with advice for women living or working in London (s) (520493)
- 2.45 Fannies. Soap linking the north of England with Australia (s) (1416233)
- 3.10 TSN News headlines (8035501) 3.15 London Today (Teletext) and weather (8035872) 3.20 Blockbusters (s) (1965308)
- 3.50 The Real Ghostbusters (t) (5894018) 4.15 Runaway Bay. Episode eight of the 13-part children's adventure series (Teletext) (s) (148940)
- 4.45 The Wildlife Environmental series presented by Chris Packham and Craig Charles (7627389) (s)
- 5.10 Home and Away (t). (Teletext) (4658358)
- 5.40 Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (768124)
- 6.00 London Tonight presented by Alastair Stewart and Flora Fraser. The guests include Dudley Moore, Harry Corbett Jr and Annie Markey, mother of the former Bishop of Galway's son (Teletext) (8018)
- 7.00 Busman's Holiday. The first of a new series of the occupations quiz, hosted by Elton Wesley (Teletext) (5018)
- 7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (308)
- 8.00 Segments. The final episode of Ken Baker's television series, starring Russ Abbot and Michael Williams. (Teletext) (s) (4766)



- 8.30 World in Action: The Forgotten Children (s) See Choice (501)
- 9.00 Medics. Hospital drama starring Tom Baker. (Teletext) (4853)
- 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (72872) 10.30 London Tonight. (Teletext) and weather (8035872)
- 10.40 Film: Seduced (1985) starring Gregory Harrison and Cybil Shepherd. Compelling made-for-television thriller about an ambitious lawyer who has an affair with a former flame. When the woman's industrialist husband is murdered, the lovers go in search of the killer. Directed by Jayrod Freedman (5652940)
- 12.25 The Beat. Includes the James Taylor Quartet and Michael Bolton's latest video (s) (6792148)
- 1.25 Sport AM. The weekend's top European football matches (9259709)
- 2.25 The Twilight Zone: Three Irish Wishes. A tale of the supernatural (2595506)
- 2.40 60 Minutes. American news magazine (5977780)
- 3.30 The Late Show. The final episode of the 100th (10070) 4.00 Hollywood Report. Showbusiness gossip (t) (s) (98855)
- 4.30 Cinema. Cinema. Film reviews (t) (57032)
- 5.00 Riviera. French drama serial (59902)
- 5.30 TSN Morning News (88815). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 5.50 Sesame Street (t)
- 6.45 Dennis. Animated adventures of a mischievous schoolboy (3988388)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (70533)
- 9.00 Wish Kid. Cartoon (t) (59921) 9.30 The Batman (b/w). Vintage 1940s adventures of Gotham City's dynamic duo (t) (825105) 9.50 The Most Wonderful Egg in the World. Cartoon (743534)
- 9.55 Gamesmaster. Video and computer game series (t) (1584178)
- 10.25 New Kids on the Block - On Tour. A musical mix of live action and animation (t) (7443869) 10.55 The Miraculous Melopops. Australian fantasy series (t) (1214563) 11.25 The Bunbury Series. Animated rabbits' adventures (t) (5723889) 11.30 The Henderson Kids. Australian drama (t) (2756)
- 12.00 Right to Reply. Includes comment on the Come on Down and Our spot game show and Dennis Potter talking about his drama series, Lipstick on Your Collar (t). (Teletext) (s) (79785)
- 12.30 Sesame Street. The guest is singer Joe Williams (81655)
- 1.30 Little Power. Children's animation (t) (s) (93640)
- 2.00 Film: Diplomatic Courier (1952, b/w) starring Tyrone Power, Patricia Neal and Hideko Nara. Lively spy thriller about an American courier in Europe on a mission to collect secret Russian plans. But his contact is murdered before they have time to meet. Based on a Peter Cheyney novel and directed by Henry Hathaway (350161)
- 3.45 Raising the Roof. The first of the week's reports from the Tyneside building site (8432124)
- 3.55 Grow Your Greens. An eight-part series on growing vegetables, presented by Sophie Grigson (t). (Teletext) (572307)
- 4.30 Fifteen To One. The first of a new series of the last-moving general knowledge knock-out. The question-master is William G. Stewart (921)
- 5.00 The Late Late Show. Topical chat and music from Dublin, hosted by Gaby Byrne (5259)
- 6.00 Children's Ward. Drama series set in a general hospital (t) (414)
- 6.30 The Goodbye. American domestic comedy (t) (Teletext) (768)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) Weather (177495)
- 7.50 Caves, Castles and Council Houses. Series on the history of housing. This evening - Glasgow tenements (713495)
- 8.00 Brookside. Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (s) (2338)
- 8.30 Surgical Spirit. The start of a 13-part re-run of the TV medical comedy starring Nicola McAffee as a sharp-tongued surgeon. (Teletext) (4143)
- 9.00 What Do You Expect - Paradise? (Teletext) See Choice (2495)
- 10.00 Northern Exposure. Off-beat comedy series about a New York doctor practising in a remote part of Alaska (s) (827698)



- 10.55 South: Pawns and Players. See Choice (505633)
- 11.55 Raising the Roof. A sit-rep from the Tyneside self-home building group (619388)
- 12.00 World in Action: St Munago's People. Denis Mitchell's 1969 documentary tracing the efforts of charity worker Jim Hume to find homeless people who may need help (t) (1512885). Ends at 12.35am

VARIATIONS

- ANGLO As London except: 2.15-2.45 The Young Doctors (530445) 3.20-3.50 The Young Doctors (530445) 4.15-4.45 The Young Doctors (530445) 5.00-5.30 The Young Doctors (530445) 6.00-6.30 The Young Doctors (530445) 6.35-7.00 The Young Doctors (530445) 7.05-7.30 The Young Doctors (530445) 7.35-8.00 The Young Doctors (530445) 8.05-8.30 The Young Doctors (530445) 8.35-9.00 The Young Doctors (530445) 9.05-9.30 The Young Doctors (530445) 9.35-10.00 The Young Doctors (530445) 10.05-10.30 The Young Doctors (530445) 10.35-11.00 The Young Doctors (530445) 11.05-11.30 The Young Doctors (530445) 11.35-12.00 The Young Doctors (530445) 12.05-12.30 The Young Doctors (530445) 12.35-1.00 The Young Doctors (530445) 1.05-1.30 The Young Doctors (530445) 1.35-2.00 The Young Doctors (530445) 2.05-2.30 The Young Doctors (530445) 2.35-3.00 The Young Doctors (530445) 3.05-3.30 The Young Doctors (530445) 3.35-4.00 The Young Doctors (530445) 4.05-4.30 The Young Doctors (530445) 4.35-5.00 The Young Doctors (530445) 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BUSINESS

MONDAY APRIL 5 1993

GLOBAL WARMING
WORRIES THE
INSURANCE MARKET

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

ICI could quit half businesses in new shake-up

By GEORGE SIVELL
CITY EDITOR

ICI chemicals could withdraw from up to ten of its 19 businesses in a dramatic shake-up planned by Ronnie Hampel, chief executive designate, when the split from Zeneca, the bioscience group, goes ahead.

The scale of the restructuring could be much more radical than suggested even by the £949 million exceptional provision made by the old ICI at the end of 1992.

Now, Mr Hampel says he will impose high performance targets on each of what are seen as the 12 growth businesses within ICI. The seven other businesses have been identified as having little long-term future within the group. Mr Hampel has already indicated that ICI will cease to invest in the loss-making petrochemicals and chlor-alkali industries, which employ 10,000 on Teesside and 7,000 in Runcorn, Cheshire.

ICI chemicals made only £146 million profit before tax and exceptional charges in 1992, on sales of £8.5 billion and a capital base estimated at £4 billion. The new group's initial average return on capital, therefore, is less than 4 per cent.

Mr Hampel is setting a target of a return on capital employed in the 12 growth business of between 20 and 25 per cent average over five years, with a floor of return not

■ Britain's biggest chemicals group will undergo a much more drastic restructuring than expected after the impending demerger of its bioscience division

below 10 per cent at the bottom of the business cycle. If the performance targets are not met, even these businesses will be sold or swapped for other assets in the industry, along the lines of the recent deal under which ICI swapped its nylon business for acrylics from DuPont.

Mr Hampel says six of the 12 growth businesses are meeting the targets. "A further three are clearly on the way up and the other three have something to prove," he says.

BZW, the securities house advising ICI on the Zeneca rights issue, identifies the main growth areas as decorative paints, car coatings, car refinishing paints, explosives, titanium dioxide, polyurethanes, acrylics, polyester films, replacement chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), terephthalic acid, Melinar polyester resin and catalysts.

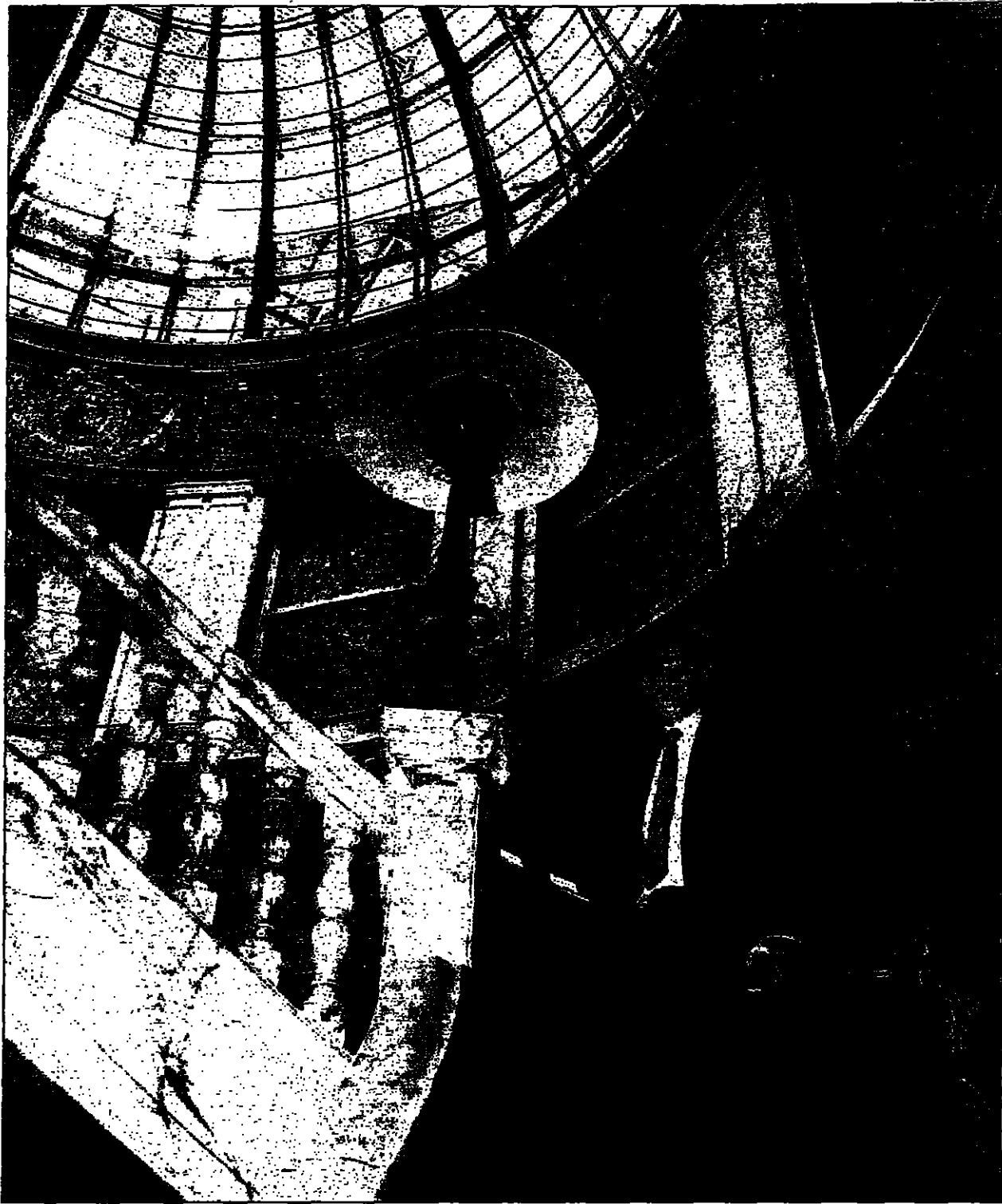
Businesses that Mr Hampel has not picked out as growth areas, it is understood, will be run for cash or swapped in a strategic realignment of the European chemicals industry. These have sales of about £3.4 billion, about 40 per cent of the demerged ICI's chemicals business. According to BZW, they include oil refining,

organics production and aromatics, all based on Teesside, chlorine-based chemicals, based at Runcorn, polypropylene films in Britain and Belgium, advanced materials in Britain and America and the half-owned PVC business in Britain and Italy.

Mr Hampel is anxious that ICI chemicals continues to develop strongly and is budgeting for £250 million to be spent each year on research and development operation that will employ 5,000 people. A high proportion of this is likely to go on applied research to help products already developed reach the marketplace.

The new management structure envisaged by Mr Hampel will involve closer links between him and the chief executives of the present operating groups.

He believes that in the 1980s, ICI "did not drive the good businesses hard enough", for example the market for replacements for CFCs, believed to damage the earth's ozone layer. He believes that because ICI built capacity bit by bit instead of making one big investment, it runs the risk of not being able to meet demand.



Our word is our bond: Jim Buckley, Baltic Exchange chief executive, took steps to honour the promise quickly

Pay deals at record low and falling

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PAY deals have fallen to a new low of 3 per cent and are set to fall further, according to a survey of wage settlements. Industrial Relations Services found that pay settlements had fallen to their lowest level since it began compiling figures in 1984.

The findings support other analyses, including those carried out by the CBI, which also says settlements are at their lowest since its records began.

The IRS survey shows that in the three months to the end of February, pay settlements were 3 per cent, down from 3.6 per cent in December and 4.5 per cent a year ago.

IRS says today that, in the short term, there is little danger of a resurgence of pay pressures in the economy. Wage deals are likely to remain "subdued" in the face of headline inflation at less than 2 per cent, a "continuing tide" of redundancies and the government's 1.5 per cent public sector pay limit.

The pay analysts say: "We predict that pay deals will continue to move downwards over coming months," though the rate of decline may be less marked.

Within the average, one in four settlements is 2 per cent or less, while 20 per cent of pay bargaining groups due to settle in the period of the survey had their pay frozen or cut.

Pay rises among the top 25 per cent of earners fell from 4 per cent in December to 3.6 per cent in February.

Ministers and the CBI are keen to link pay more closely to performance, but IRS suggests that employers operating merit pay systems spend more on pay awards than those who give across-the-board rises.

Looking at more than 1,100 pay settlements in the latest complete pay round, for 1991-2, the study finds that employers who linked pay entirely to merit increased their pay bills 5 per cent, while those awarding general increases saw wages rise only 4.5 per cent. Pay freezes and deferrals of rises were also less common with performance pay systems.

The study finds that merit pay is most common in the finance and information technology sectors, but is spreading to areas such as engineering, chemicals, National Health Service trusts and local authorities.

Leyland DAF dealers desert

By COLIN NARBROUGH

LEYLAND DAF, the troubled truck and van maker that suffered a potentially mortal blow in the High Court last week, is now suffering from a flight of dealers to Iveco Ford Trucks, its arch-rival.

Alan Fox, chief executive of Iveco-Ford, a joint venture between Iveco, the Fiat truck subsidiary, and Ford UK, said three dealerships have already switched to his company, another three had signed heads of agreement, and talks were under way with five.

Mr Fox said Iveco-Ford had

initially been approached by the dealers soon after receivers were appointed at Leyland in February. He said the three dealerships that had switched were big operations in Birmingham, Darlington and Sherwood, Nottinghamshire. Leyland had 57 dealers.

Martin Hayes, communications director at Leyland DAF, said that the loss of dealerships so far was disappointing but "certainly not the end of the world".

The joint administrative receivers of Leyland are to lodge

an appeal, which is expected to be heard tomorrow in the Court of Appeal, against Friday's High Court ruling that Automotive Products, a brake and clutch supplier owed £758,000 by Leyland, could not legally be obliged to continue supply.

Without AP's parts, Leyland production can be maintained for only a few days and some lines could come to a halt today. If the court ruling is upheld on appeal, it could prompt Leyland's suppliers to desert it wholesale.

Baltic honours pledge to return

LESS than a year after the building was devastated by an IRA bomb that brought death and injury, the Baltic Exchange, the international shipping market, recommenced business today at its old City headquarters (Colin NARBROUGH writes).

Peter Tudball, the chairman, promised immediately after the blast on April 10 last year that the Baltic would return to its home in St Mary Axe to survive and thrive. The reopening of trading there means he has honoured the exchange's motto: "Our word is our bond." Most important,

brokers suffered no more than a temporary break in business.

After the bombing, the Baltic took shelter in the modernistic tower of Lloyd's insurance market, a move that repays a favour the shipping market gave Lloyd's in the early 1800s, when fire at the Royal Exchange made the insurance brokers homeless.

The Baltic, the biggest and most prestigious shipping and cargo market in the world, deals in bulk goods from wheat to iron ore and contributes about £1.5 billion a year to Britain's balance of payments, despite the near de-

mise of a British merchant fleet. The original building housing the exchange, built at the turn of the century, whose marbled trading floor had an air of a grand Indian railway station, is being faithfully restored, even to the point of reopening an Italian quarry.

Swedish granite on the front elevation was unavailable, as the rock source has been turned into a theme park.

Jim Buckley, the Baltic chief executive, said that the IRA bomb was not the first to damage the exchange. It emerged from the second world war unscathed, but was

victim of one of the first world war's few aerial bombing raids.

A £27.6 million lump settlement with its insurers allowed the Baltic to rebuild and cover financial losses. But trade in the strictly private market, will be conducted in the Queens Room, part of the exchange whose foundation stone was laid by Winston Churchill.

The old trading floor will not be available again until 1995, at the earliest. And, in all probability, it has seen its last days as a place where half the world's tonnage was brokered.

Oil tax reform may raise only £115m

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

RESEARCH among 72 oil and gas companies by Wood Mackenzie, the North Sea specialist, suggests Norman Lamont's Budget measures to reform petroleum revenue tax, which he hoped would raise £700 million more than formerly, might in practice raise as little as £115 million extra.

The Chancellor's target is likely to be met only if there is a big immediate cut in North Sea exploration and development work that can still be set against tax. WM thinks the Treasury may have been banking on such a cut, although, on the broker's assumptions, revenue would have risen even without the reform due to a rise in oil prices.

WM projects that before the Budget, 110 wells were likely to be drilled this year and possibly 150 in both 1994 and 1995. This could now fall to fewer than 100.

WM calculates that BP, majority owner of the mature Forties oil field, is the biggest gainer from the changes, which could boost its cash flow by £410 million over the four years to 1996 and raise the value of its interests by £640 million. British Gas will lose in the short term but gain later by a £380 million rise in the value of its North Sea interests while cash flow at Lasso, the exploration and development group, might suffer by £70 million over the four years.

China favours trade with Germany

By OUR WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

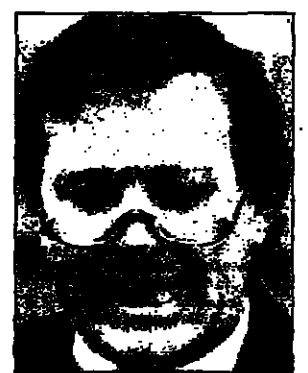
GERMANY has seized the opportunity provided by the downturn in Peking's relations with Britain and France to secure a batch of Chinese orders, plus a shopping list for \$30 billion worth of future projects.

Günter Rexrodt, the German economics minister, who led a group of industrialists and businessmen to China last week, said there had been an "incredible breakthrough" in Sino-German trade.

The biggest deal was a firm order for 12 Airbus A300-600s passenger aircraft worth \$1.2 billion, with options on a further 13. The order was placed through Dasa, the German partner

in the European consortium, although French and British partners still earn their share of the work.

The warming in Sino-German trade relations comes at a time when the strong mark has nominally made



Rexrodt: breakthrough

German goods less competitive. Last year, Germany boosted exports to China, which has one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, by 41 per cent to DM5.7 billion. Imports from China, while rising only slightly, were still more than double exports at DM11.6 billion.

Bonn's controversial decision in January to veto a DM12 billion Taiwanese order for submarines, which would have provided much-needed work for shipyards in Lower Saxony, sweetened trade relations with Peking. The move contrasted with France's decision to sell Mirage fighter jets to Taiwan in the face of protests from Peking. During its dispute with Chris Patten, governor of Hong Kong, over local

democracy, Peking issued warnings that Anglo-Chinese trade would suffer.

Wu Yi, the Chinese foreign trade minister, assured Herr Rexrodt that China would favour Germany on 23 major projects scheduled for completion by 2000. China has agreed to buy two power stations and 60 to 70 ships from German yards. Rail car deliveries from east Germany will also continue.

British exports to China rose 33.5 per cent to £430 million last year. Its share of exports to China from the leading industrial economies fell to 2.2 per cent in 1991 from 3.5 per cent in 1986. Germany saw its share slip from 12.8 per cent to 9.5 per cent, while France increased its share from 3 per cent to 5.3 per cent.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO. 3064

- ACROSS
1 Starting too early (7,3,3)
8 Yorkshire valleys (5)
9 Everlasting (7)
10 Male cat (3)
11 Invest, provide (5)
12 Strongly object (7)
14 Choose (6)
16 Animal behaviourist (6)
20 Stare down (7)
23 Cloth (5)
24 Eisenhower (3)
25 Lasting indefinitely (7)
26 Heavy tread (5)
27 Vigorously (13)
- DOWN
1 Court martial leader (5,8)
2 Tuneful (7)
3 As an alternative (7)
4 Peevish (6)
5 Spa hotel (5)
6 Move smoothly (5)
7 Refusal (8,5)
13 Fast French train (1,1,1)
15 World funds reserve (1,1,1)
17 Rigidly abstemious (7)
18 Tennis 0-0 (4,3)
19 Altitude (6)
21 Essay topic (5)
22 Forward (5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3063
ACROSS: 1 Some more 5 Hiss 9 Fyllef 10 Raven
11 Heat 12 Shelter 14 Cannon
21 Gasp 24 Delta 25 Antenna 26 Toys 27 Skinhead
DOWN: 1 Soft 2 Maybe 3 Maestro 4 Refuse 6 Invited
7 Sonority 8 Brie 13 Accredited 15 Novelty 17 Megaton
18 Remark 20 Road 22 Sling 23 Hand

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14 & 15: Cheques to Skorn Ltd, 61 Manor Lane, London SE1, 12 5JW. Delivery in 8 days. For details of all Times Crossword books and software call Skorn Ltd on 0181 852 4525 (24 hrs) or CDS Domestic on 0181 3041 000.

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Arisipov - Zaitsev, Moscow 1992. Both kings are exposed to the opponent's attacking forces and in such situations the initiative is of paramount importance. Here black has the initiative as it is his move. How does he make the most of it?

Solution on page 33

By PHILIP HOWARD

CLASSICALS
CIMMERIANS
a. Trojans
b. A mythical race
c. Heavily armed cavalry
OPPIAN
a. The Greek Walton
b. A Roman emperor
c. A city-dweller

WORD-WATCHING

APOSIOPESES
a. A Socratic dialogue
b. A rhetorical break
c. Scurrilous verses
EVADNE
a. A companion of Aeneas
b. One of the Muses
c. A satute wife
Answers on page 33

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